

LEARNING FOCUS 4: Penitential Rite 1 and 2

There are two different ways of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation : Rite 1 and Rite 2.

Look at these images and discuss with a family member what you think is happening



What is happening here?



What happens in Rite 1?

In Rite 1, individuals will make their Confession to the priest.

Before they do that, they will have prayed and thought carefully about their life, have contrition and want to make a new start.

They will tell the priest their sins and listen carefully to his advice.

What happens in Rite 2?

Sometimes, Rite 2 of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is used.

This often happens in Advent and Lent when people gather together to prepare for the feasts of Christmas or Easter.

In Rite 2, a number of people come together for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, often with a few priests who have come from neighbouring parishes.

There is a service of prayers and readings, which help people to prepare. They are then invited to make a personal confession to one of the priests available.

Sometimes schools will have a Penitential Service with the opportunity for confession too.

Cont.

Whatever a person talks to the priest about is in absolute confidence. They can feel that they are talking to God alone.

When the confessions are finished, the priest invites everyone to thank and praise God for his mercy and forgiveness

Remember that *rite* means *ritual* or *ceremony*, a way of doing things.

Key questions to discuss with a family member

- Have you ever celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- How did you prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- Why do you think it is helpful to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- What is hard about it and what is good?
- Why do you think people would come together to celebrate Rite 2?

Task

- Consider Rites 1 and 2 of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Make a list of the differences and similarities between them. Look back at the PowerPoint slides to help you if you get stuck or discuss with a family member
- You can use the table document attached to help you show your similarities or differences or you can create your own table