



## The Sacrament of Penance Information 2025



July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am excited to welcome you to this year's **Sacrament of Penance** program. This Sacrament is also known as **Reconciliation in the First Rite**. As your child continues to grow and explore their faith, this special sacrament will allow them to experience God's forgiveness and feel closer to Him.

The Sacrament of Penance is the sacrament of spiritual healing and mercy. We will speak about sin, but sin is not the point. It's the outcome that really matters, namely that – having said sorry – the children will receive the gift of forgiveness and be restored to a right relationship with God and with one another.

I love the Sacrament of Penance. I am deeply aware of the healing it has brought to my life, and the constant reassurance I receive through it. I also have the privilege of being the minister of the sacrament, and I see, again and again, its healing power at work in people's lives. It saddens me that this great gift of God's mercy is so little used!

Please consider whether you are able to commit to the full program before enrolling. The content and experiences of the program are necessary preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament. To enrol, children must have been baptised, confirmed, and received their First Holy Communion. They will usually be in Year 5 at school. **Enrolments close on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of September.**

I look forward to celebrating this beautiful sacrament with your children and helping them not only understand but also experience God's healing mercy.

Blessings,

*Fr Michael Grace*

Parish Priest | Mother of Mercy Parish, Hendra, Hamilton, Northgate  
Parish Administrator | St Agatha's Parish, Clayfield





# The Sacrament of Penance Information 2025

(Also known as *Reconciliation in the 1<sup>st</sup> Rite or Confession*)

Mother of Mercy Parish and St Agatha's Parish Combined Sacramental Program

Open to children Year 5 (and up) who have received Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church

Enquires: Alexandria Atkins, Parish Families Administrative Assistant

[sacramental.clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sacramental.clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)

St Agatha's and MoM Parish Office Location: 9 Bowman St, Hendra Qld | ph. (07) 3268 3040

***Want to enrol your child? Read and click the links to register and enrol.***

## 1. Enrolling in the Sacrament of Penance: Parent/Carer Formation

**1 hr (Parents/Carers Only to attend).**

You may attend any session, no matter what parish you belong to.

\$25 Enrolment Fee payable online when you register by clicking below.

You will receive your work booklet from Sandy. Get started ASAP with your child.

*Upon completing registration (below) you will be sent an email with [this link](#) to the online enrolment forms.*

*Enrolment will not be considered finalised until both registration and enrolment forms are complete.*



**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

[5:00pm at St Agatha's Church, Clayfield](#)



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

[6:30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hendra](#)



## 2. Rite of Enrolment Mass

Come to one of these Masses for your child to receive a prayerful commissioning to undertake their preparation towards the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please Bring your 'Pray for Me' card. You may attend any Mass, no matter what parish you belong to!

***No Registration Required- just come along with the whole family!***

St Cecilia's Church, Hamilton – **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 4:30pm**

St Agatha's Church, Clayfield – **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 8:00am or 5:30pm** or

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hendra – **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 9:30am**

## Family Mini Retreat

Learn about God's great mercy through the Sacrament of Penance! We will end our retreat with a Liturgy of the Word together.

1.5 hours (Parents/Caregiver +individual child to attend)

Bring completed booklet, pencil and snack/drink bottle.

***Registrations will open 8<sup>th</sup> September. You will be sent the link via email.***

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

6:30pm-8:00pm

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Hendra

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

4:00pm- 5:30pm

St Agatha's Church, Clayfield

## 3. Individual Reconciliations (1<sup>st</sup> Rite) With Fr Michael Grace - Term 4

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November (St Agatha's Church, Clayfield)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November (OLHC Church, Hendra)

Multiple time **10-minute time slots** will be available **from 3:00pm until 6:30pm.**

Individual Child+ Parent/s to attend.

***Registration required. Enrolled candidates will receive an email to register for a time slot.***

***Registrations will be available from 15<sup>th</sup> September.***

Location: St Agatha's Church, Clayfield and Our Lady Help of Christians, Hendra

Duration in total: Please arrive 10 minutes before your time slot to prepare yourself through individual prayer. Individual Confession only takes approximately 5-10 minutes; you will then need to stay behind for 5 minutes to pray any prayers of penance Father Michael may give you.

Children will receive their certificates on the way out.