

# LITURGY BYTES

## Reconciliation – Part 2



Last week's column laid a little groundwork about reconciliation. Many Catholics treasure the Sacrament of Reconciliation. How do you feel? The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. It is a peace that flows from a certainty, rather than from an unsure hope, that our sins have been forgiven and that we are right with God.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also known as penance and confession, among other names. Penance seems to describe the process best, although most of us refer to it as confession.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament in which the priest, as the agent of God, forgives our sins when we are truly sorry for them and willing to do better in the future. By His death on the Cross, Jesus Christ redeemed us all from sin and from the consequences of sin. So, it is not surprising that on the very day He rose from the dead, Jesus instituted this sacrament. It was on Easter Sunday evening that Jesus appeared to his Apostles gathered together in the Upper Room where they had eaten the Last Supper. Jesus spoke to them reassuringly with these words from John's Gospel (20:19-23): *"Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them, 'Peace be to you!' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced at the sight of the Lord. He said to them again, 'Peace be to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you.' When he had said this, he breathed upon them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.'"*

Have a peaceful, blessed, safe and healthy week ahead!~ *Michele Hall*