

Intercessory Prayer

pupils

For our forgetfulness:

Forgive us, Lord

For our unkindness to one another

Forgive us, Lord

For our selfishness

Forgive us, Lord

For the times we don't help

Forgive us, Lord

For the times we don't do as we are told

Forgive us, Lord

For our broken promises

Forgive us, Lord

For the times we don't do good things

Forgive us, Lord

For the times we don't do say our prayers

Forgive us, Lord



Prayer: *(priest introduce the prayer)* **Our Father**

Concluding Rite: *Priest*

Almighty and merciful God, you created us out of love. When we sin, you do not forget us but show us your loving mercy. You sent your Son Jesus into the world to destroy sin by his death, and to restore life and joy by his resurrection. You sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us your children who will one day join you in the kingdom of heaven. When we seek your forgiveness, you free us from sin and transform us into the likeness of your Son, Jesus. We thank you for your mercy: Glory to you through Christ in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

May Almighty God, bless you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing carol: Prepare the way

Individual confessions *Adults and children are invited to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Children will remain in the hall to prepare for the sacrament and for penance afterwards.*

St John's Catholic Primary School Advent Penance Service



Happy are those who are merciful to others;
God will be merciful to them!

Call to Prayer: *(priest)*

(priest)

The Lord be with you (response)

As we light our Advent wreath, we remind ourselves of God's presence with us as we gather as a school family in his name.

We invite God to hear our prayers with his loving mercy this morning.



Pupils come to light the candle and read gathering prayer

(light candle 1) Hope: We praise God that Jesus tells us not to be afraid and lose hope. We remember children who are suffering who do not know the peace and joy of hope. With your mercy, they will learn to know hope.

(light candle 2) Peace: We praise God that we know peace. We remember children who live in war and do not know the comfort of peace. With your mercy, they will learn to know peace.

(light candle 3) Joy: We thank God for joy – joy in our homes, in our school and for our future. We remember children who do not know joy. With your mercy they will know joy.

Pupil

Advent is a time of preparation. We are preparing for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We gather here this morning because we have faith that God is merciful. We have this faith because, in every age, God has shown his justice and his mercy. In the Old Testament, when his chosen people sinned, he sent prophets to call them back. In the New Testament, he sent John the Baptist to call sinners to be sorry for their sins and to announce the coming of the Savior. And in his greatest act of merciful love, God sent his only Son to live among us, to preach of the Father's love, and to set us free from sin and death.

Pupil

Sometimes we forget to be good and kind. Sometimes we choose to do naughty things called sins. This morning, we are also thinking about our sins, and we are asking Jesus to forgive our sins. God continues to save his people and Christ continues to be present to us, especially in the Church's sacraments. And in this sacrament of forgiveness, God continues to offer us his mercy.

Pupil

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and for listening to our prayers this morning. Send the Holy Spirit into our hearts as we prepare for Jesus. We are sorry for the times we have chosen to sin. With your loving mercy, please forgive our sins this morning. We ask your light shine in our hearts this Christmas.

Priest

Dear children and adults of St John's School, God is merciful. Let us therefore ask him for the grace to be sorry. Father of comfort and mercy, you do not wish the us to live in sin but to be converted and live in forgiveness. So listen to us this morning as we ask for your mercy, that we may turn from our sins and live as Jesus did. Help us listen to your message this morning, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and always be grateful for your merciful kindness. Help us to live the truth in love and grow into the fullness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. All: **Amen.**

Song: Taize: Oh Lord, hear our prayer

Gospel Reading followed by a short homily:

Matthew 5: 1—10

Examination of Conscience

(pupils)

**Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor;
the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!**

Do I think about God every day?

Do I say my prayers?

Do I pay attention in mass?

Happy are those who mourn;

God will comfort them!

Am I kind to others?

Do I do what Jesus wants me to?

Happy are those who are humble;

they will receive what God has promised!

Do I share with others?

Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires;

God will satisfy them fully!

Am I helpful to my family?

Am I respectful in school?

Happy are those who are merciful to others;

God will be merciful to them!

Do I say sorry when I have been wrong?

Do I forgive and forget when someone says sorry to me?

Do I say bad things about people who have hurt me?

Happy are the pure in heart;

they will see God!

Do I remember to say thank you?

Am I sometimes greedy?

Do I think of ways to help people who are hungry?

Do I take things that don't belong to me?

Happy are those who work for peace;

God will call them his children!

Do I tell the truth?

Do I set a good example by kindness?

Do I let my friends tempt me to do things I know I shouldn't do?

Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires;

the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

Do I play fairly?

Do I cheat?

Let us pray:

pupil

God, our Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of Jesus this Christmas. During Advent help us to prepare ourselves and become better people, ready to welcome the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning.

pupil

Help us remember the mercy of God, so He may help us grow more like Jesus this Advent. With the power of the Holy Spirit, the light of Christ will shine in our hearts.

