

# Second Rite of Reconciliation Advent 2010 Year A Welcoming Christ

## Welcome

The reflections for this evening's celebration are based on the bee. The bee is a symbol of wisdom; it is wise enough to know where to collect nectar from flowers and to turn it into sweet honey. We should be wise enough to take what we are given (our nectar) and daily transform our lives, making them sweeter.

On the columns of the canopy covering the Altar in St Peter's Basilica in Rome there are bees among the leaves and flowers. It is also traditional in the Church for the candles on the altar and the Paschal candle to be of beeswax. Beeswax is a natural product made from the bee's act of selfless work. I invite.....to come forward now and light the candles on the altar as a symbol, that like the bee, we are opening ourselves up to what God is calling us to in our lives. A life of selflessness and welcome, inviting God to transform us into his image.

## Entrance Song

'God is Love' By David Hass  
No.461 Gather Australia



## Opening Prayer

### Priest:

#### Let us pray

Lord, help us to welcome Christ into our lives today so that we can praise and thank you for your continuous love. Open our hearts to your healing love and remove the things that interfere with your plan for us.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Readings from Scripture

You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

*Acts 20: 34-36*

Each of you needs to freely make up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, to be a cheerful giver. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As is it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he give to the poor; His righteousness endures for ever.'

*2 Corinthians 9: 7-9*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

*Romans 12: 1-2*

## Responsorial Psalm

'A trusting Psalm' by Kevin Bates  
No.455 Gather Australia

## Homily

## Examination of Conscience

**Response:** Lord let your mercy be on us  
as we place our trust in you.

We are all in continual need of spiritual development, time to pray and reflect on God's word in our lives.

**Do I make time for prayer in my life?**

(pause)

**Response:** Lord let your mercy be on us  
as we place our trust in you.

As Christians we are called to be open to the Word of God transforming our lives in our everyday actions, in our work places, our families, in all relationships. We are called to give and not count the cost.

**Do I compromise when necessary and respect others opinions even when I do not agree?**

(pause)

**Response:** Lord let your mercy be on us  
as we place our trust in you.

Jesus said 'love your neighbor as yourself'.

**Do I respect myself and care for myself appropriately?  
Do I use my body to serve the Lord in all my works and words?**

(pause)

**Response:** Lord let your mercy be on us  
as we place our trust in you.

## Rite of Reconciliation

### General Confession of Sins

**Priest:** My sisters and brothers, confess your sins and pray for each other, that you may be healed. Together we pray...

**All.** I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.

And I ask Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Priest.** The Lord is merciful. He makes us clean of heart and leads us out into his freedom when we acknowledge our guilt. Let us ask him to forgive and lead us in the way of truth and love.



## Invitation to Individual Confession and Absolution.

(At the end of the individual confessions and absolutions, before the concluding prayer, encourage those gathered to continue leading good lives which will proclaim the grace of repentance in the life of the entire community and each of its members.)

## Thanksgiving.

**Priest:** As a sign of reconciliation and peace let us join together and pray the Prayer our Lord gave us, The Lord's Prayer ...

**All.** Our Father.....

**Priest:** Almighty God and Father, you have shown us your mercy and made us new through your love.

**All.** We praise and thank you.

**Priest:** May we always seek the truth that you have given to us through your son Jesus Christ.

**All.** Amen.

## Sign of Peace.

**Priest.** The Lord has given us the gift of his peace by restoring our friendship with him. Let us offer the same gift of peace and friendship to our brothers and sisters.

**(All offer the sign of peace)**

## Concluding Rite

May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you with Christ-like patience.

**R. Amen.**

May he give you strength to walk in the light of Christ and fulfill all our longings to live as God would want us to live.

**R. Amen.**

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

**R. Amen.**

The Lord has freed us from sin, so we may live fully the promise made to us through Jesus Christ.

Go now to live in peace and the love of God.

**R. Amen.**

## Recessional Song:

'God has made us his Family' by Carey Landry  
No. 111 As One Voice