



RECONCILIATION SUNDAY- 7/8 December

ADVENT 2019

CELEBRATING FORGIVENESS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Since my last celebration of reconciliation/in recent months

- *For what do I most thank God?*
- *For what am I most sorry?*
- *Where do I want to ask help and/or healing in my life?*

You might like to take time in the coming week to ponder the following questions. Spending time with this reflection is partly about *letting God show you where to look....*be open to any surprises, and the God of Surprises!

(A) What do I most thank God for recently?

- and for **whom** do I most thank God? How might I show this gratitude?

(B) What am I most sorry for?

- **in my relationships with other people?**

Do I take for granted those with whom I live? Do I make time for them?

Do I listen well?

Can I recall an incident where I was difficult to live with – moody or overcritical?

If I work, do I work with integrity, with respect for others' time and resources?

If I have been very hurt, is there anyone I need to try to forgive, even only by trying to take the first difficult step of not wanting or seeking revenge?

Do I use people – for personal gain, attention, my reputation, sexually or in other ways? Do I gossip? Do I ever encourage or affirm anybody?

- in my relationship with myself?

Am I honest with myself and prepared to accept criticism? Or blind to my own weaknesses, and unwilling to try to change?

Am I self-indulgent or selfish in my approach to alcohol or food? To material possessions? In general?

Do I actively seek to recognise and resist temptation? Do I really try and love myself in a healthy way (remembering the call by Jesus to love our neighbours and ourselves)?

- in my relationship with God?

Do I try to make my relationship with God a living one? Do I give time to God in prayer or am I “too busy”?

Someone once said “God is very short of gratitude”; do I ever express my gratitude? Or do I take God for granted?

(C) In what area of my life do I most want to ask help and healing?

Is anything particularly worrying or upsetting me at the moment? Is there a habit I want to break but feel I can't by myself?

Looking over the relationships in my life, where do I most need help and healing?

(D) What gift or quality would I like to ask God for in my life this Christmas?