

BECOMING CATHOLIC

# RECONCILIATION

A practical guide for families



KATHY HORAN

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# *Reconciliation*

**A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FAMILIES**

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## About the Authors



Kathy Horan has worked extensively in a range of leadership roles within Catholic Education in South Australia. These roles include RE coordinator in parish schools, Deputy Principal and RE consultant in the Adelaide

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Kathy is currently working in the Adelaide Archdiocese as Coordinator of the RCIA, supporting parish Baptism teams and adult Confirmation groups. She is also working with the Ministry Formation program to support students seeking pathways into pastoral ministry within the Archdiocese.



Tess Harford is an experienced educator who has worked in Catholic Education SA for 35 years. Tess's roles include classroom teacher, RE Coordinator and various senior leadership positions.

She brings a wealth of practical catechetical experience and an enthusiasm for developing children's spiritual faith through engaging activities and journalling prompts in this series.



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# Introduction

This book will support you in the religious formation of your children, particularly as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

Family is where we belong and feel at home. The Church has described the family as the 'domestic Church'. For the Catholic family, it is our faith in God and our relationship with this loving God that provide us with a guide for living in peace, harmony and mutual respect.



# How to use this book

This book is designed for parents and children to work together as you journey towards celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Journey themes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

There are three main sections that link to parts of your child's sacramental journey.

Each main theme explains why we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with the main emphasis on **experiences, values, and connections**.

**Journalling** and **activity pages** have been added for you to work together with your child so that you will have a deeper understanding of the faith journey.



### VALUES

The Christian story is the 'bigger family story'. In each theme, there is a message from the Scriptures. Our shared family story in the Catholic community is grounded in the story of Jesus and the values from his message.



### EXPERIENCE

This provides some ways of thinking about the theme and sharing some reflections and family memories or stories about daily family experiences with your children. It may also be a way for families to do things together to strengthen family life.



### CONNECTION

Make it a ritual to spend a few moments together reflecting on the day. It may take the form of having each family member naming something good about the day. Gratitude is always a winner!

This will help your child to understand the importance of prayer and of developing a personal relationship with Jesus.



### ACTIVITIES

Suggestions are provided for family activities to make connections between what we do and what we have learned together about the theme. This is an excellent way to remain connected to your child's journey.



### JOURNALLING

This section is an opportunity for children to be imaginative and to write or draw freely about what they are thinking about and feeling. It gives parents a chance to understand what their children might be experiencing and allow room for discussion.



# Section 1:

# Preparing





# Section 1: Preparing



START HERE

God has given us the ability to think and to choose. All choices have consequences. Sometimes we get things right, but at other times we get things wrong and have to think about ways of making things right with people again.

**Brokenness** is a way of describing how we might feel if we have hurt someone by our words or actions. When this happens, we need to find a way to mend what we have broken. Another way of describing this is **wrongdoing**.

## Topic 1: We make choices



### VALUES – THE LOST SON/THE FORGIVING FATHER

The story of the lost son or the forgiving father in Luke's gospel is a story Jesus told about a son who made lots of poor choices. Jesus showed that the father continued to believe in and love his son and forgave him for damaging their relationship.

'We had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' (Luke 15:32)



As parents, talk with your child about the times when we all make mistakes or poor choices. When people let us know how they feel because of our poor choices, this can help us to understand why our choices were wrong.



### PARENT ACTION:

Help your child to understand the way we learn how to take responsibility for our actions and to make things right again. Share your feelings at the family table and work together on the activity sheet.








## Activity 1: I am kind to others

Jesus says that whenever we do something good, kind, or thoughtful for someone else, we are doing it for him. (Matt 25: 34–36)

Think about the good things you have done this week. It could be cleaning up your bedroom, helping a little kid who has fallen over, or doing what the teacher asked you to do.

Write or draw one act of kindness under each heading below. 

At School

At Home

For My Friends

For My Family

Be kind to others. 