



WHY DO CATHOLICS CONFESS TO A PRIEST INSTEAD OF DIRECTLY TO GOD?

“Why can't I just confess my sins directly to God?” You may have heard one ask this question. And Catholics actually agree with the first part: Yes, we should confess our sins directly to God. But Jesus also gave His Church a sacramental way of receiving forgiveness, and it involves a priest. So why?

1. Catholics Do Confess Their Sins Directly to God.

Catholics are encouraged to speak to God personally about their sins. We can say: “Lord, I am sorry for what I have done. Please forgive me.” We should examine our conscience, repent and ask God for mercy.

2. Jesus Gave the Apostles Authority to Forgive Sins.

After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His apostles and said: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Then He breathed on them and said: “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” John 20:21-23. This is one of the clearest biblical foundations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus did not merely tell the apostles to pray for sinners. He gave them responsibility concerning the forgiveness of sins.

3. The Priest Is Not Taking God's Place.

This is one of the biggest misunderstandings. Catholics do not believe the priest is the source of forgiveness. God is. The priest acts as a minister of Christ. The Catechism says that priests exercise the ministry of reconciliation in Christ's name. (CCC 1461) It is ultimately Jesus who forgives the sinner. The priest is the instrument Christ chose to use in the sacrament.

4. Jesus Also Told His Apostles to Bind and Loose

Jesus gave Peter and the apostles another remarkable authority: “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Mt 16:19.

5. Confession Gives Us Something We Often Need: Assurance

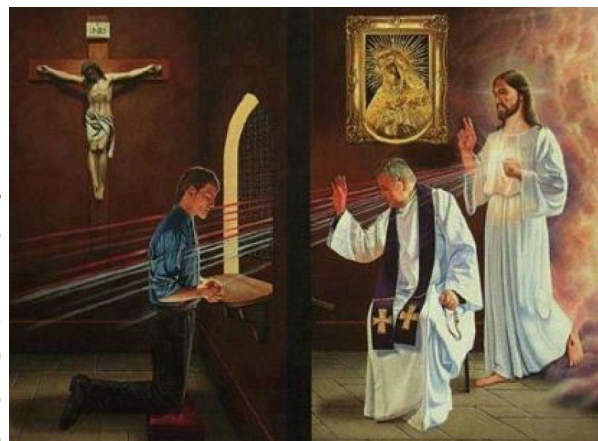
Sometimes we say: “God, I hope You forgive me.” But in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when we sincerely repent, confess our sins and receive valid absolution, we hear the priest say the words of forgiveness. We don't have to rely only on our feelings. We hear the sacramental declaration: God has forgiven you. That can bring tremendous peace to a troubled conscience.

6. Confession Is Also About Healing and Conversion

The Sacrament is not simply about listing everything we have done wrong. It is about returning to God. The priest can help us identify patterns of sin, offer counsel, assign a penance and encourage us to begin again.

So the Catholic Church never teaches: “God cannot hear you unless a priest is standing beside you.” Rather, she teaches that Christ gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the ordinary means for receiving forgiveness of serious sins after Baptism. In simple words, so why do Catholics confess to a priest? Because Jesus gave His apostles, and through them His Church, a ministry of forgiving and retaining sins. We confess sacramentally to a priest because Christ chose the apostles and their successors to minister that forgiveness visibly in His name.

The priest is not replacing God. He is not more powerful than God. So the next time someone asks: “Why don't Catholics just confess directly to God?” The answer is simple: **We do.** But we also follow the way of reconciliation that Christ Himself entrusted to His Church.



Archdiocese of Adelaide

MATER CHRISTI PARISH

413, Grange Rd. Seaton, South Australia, 5023

Office Hours: WEDNESDAY~FRIDAY (9:30AM—I:00PM)

Phone: 83564036 Website: materchristi.com.au

Email: materchristi@adam.com.au

Facebook: Mater Christi Parish Seaton

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Fr Franco Lacanaria CS

Parish Priest

Chaplain-Filipino Community

Ph 0438-283379

Fr Valentin Mendoza CS

Assistant Priest

Chaplain-Spanish Speaking

vale2016memo@gmail.com

Fr Angelo Cagna CS

Chaplain to Italian Community

Ph 0423648736

acagna45@gmail.com

Ms Rita Griffante & Ms Lucia Raybould

Parish Office Staff

MASSES SCHEDULE

Weekdays

8:15am—Monday—Friday

Saturday

8:00am—Italian

4:30pm—Spanish (Ant Sunday Mass)

6:00pm—English (Ant Sunday Mass)

Sundays

9:00am—English

10:30am—Italian

6:00pm—English

3:00pm—Albanian—2nd Sun

3:00pm—Filipino—3rd Sun

Baptism—11:45am—Sunday

Confession—8:30-9:00am—Saturday

Adoration—7:00pm—Saturday

23rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR A — Sep 06, 2026

ALL OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SALVATION OF OTHERS

In the gospel, Jesus gives an exhortation on fraternal correction. He says that if a person sins against you, the next thing you should do is “to go and tell his fault between you and him alone.” This does not happen always though. When a person has done something wrong against us, we usually create a wall

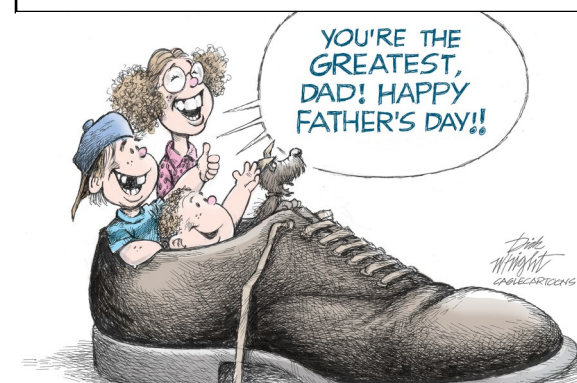
“FRATERNAL CORRECTION IS A MARK OF LOVE.”

— POPE FRANCIS



between him and us. We do not want to talk to that person. What we want is that this person instead should be the one to come, and say sorry to us. But what if the person does not know that he has already hurt you? What we should do? For Jesus, even if we are hurting, we should go to the person and tell him that he has done wrong to us. It may be difficult because it would mean getting rid of our pride. The work of correcting our erring brothers or sisters is not easy. It gives us discomfort. It can be embarrassing. And it can be risky too because it might lose a long established friendship. Some people prefer silence, not to say any word to an erring brother, sister or friend, lest that he or she may be hurt. But there are times when failure to speak out is actually condoning an evil practice. And this does not help community life at all.

Again, all of us are responsible for the salvation of others. We cannot afford to think only of ourselves. We are all brothers and sisters and therefore must always show our concern and love for each other. We must remain a watchman for others, we must love others, and lastly, we must correct others when they have done wrong. This is difficult to do, but if we have the heart, that is, love and concern, for them, then we must do everything for them.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st Reading — Ezek 33: 7-9

From the book of the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

R: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. R.

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. R.

O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work. R.



2nd Reading — Rom 13: 8-10

From the letter of Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel — Mt 18: 15-20

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. ‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. ‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

ARCHDIOCESE NOTICE

The Migrant Jubilee Cross Has Arrived in Adelaide! Let’s Celebrate Migration!!

The Migrant Jubilee Cross has arrived in Adelaide as part of a national pilgrimage celebrating the faith, gifts, contributions and resilience of migrant communities across Australia. An initiative of the Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office , the Cross is a sign of our shared journey of faith and a reminder of the many cultures and communities that enrich the life of our Church. The Cross will be at St Francis Xavier Cathedral for a time of prayer and reflection, before continuing its pilgrimage to local schools.



Migrant & Refugee Sunday Multicultural Mass

Come and celebrate with us at Pooraka. We invite everyone to join us for Migrant and Refugee Sunday – 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – Multicultural Mass: Sunday 27 September 2026 - 1.30pm at Our Lady of the Boat People Church, Pooraka. Join Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and our multicultural communities for a joyful celebration of our shared faith, followed by a procession and fellowship.



PARISH NOTICE



A ministry in the Catholic Church offering couple a weekend of discovery. Enhance communication and rekindle the passion of Marriage.

For details, visit: wwme.org.au



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

7-8 November, 2026 - Live-Out Weekend
Antonio Catholic School, Morphett Vale

The Filipino Community Honours Our Lady of Coromoto — Sunday, September 20 —

The Filipino Community of Mater Christi will celebrate St. Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Pedro Calungsod, and honour Our Lady of Coromoto, Patroness of Venezuela, in a fundraising event to support those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela.

Sunday, September 20
Holy Mass: 3:00 p.m.
Fellowship and Entertainment: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Admission: \$35

All proceeds will go toward assisting victims of the earthquakes in Venezuela.

Faith, Unity and Solidarity That Transform Lives!

Information: Florinda (0410 340 903)
Elisa (0434 520 188) Marynel (0467 488 523)

PARISH CALENDAR

Sat 05/09	4:30 PM	Mass in Spanish
	6:00 PM	Francesco Stillisano
Sun 06/09	9:00 AM	Nikoll Ducaj, Immaculada Postrano, & All Holy Souls
	10:30 AM	Vincenzo, Ottavio, Rosangela (TASSONE) Mariantonia Aloï, Domenico Carrera, TASSONE, CARRERA & ALOI DFM, Libera Michele, Vito Cocca, Marco Piteo, Marco Bartemucci
	6:00 PM	Guido Di Fabio
Mon 07/09	8:15 AM	English Mass
	7:00 PM	Mass in Spanish
Tue 08/09	8:15 AM	Honouring the BVM Nativity (Italian)
	7:00 PM	Nativity of the BVM (English)
Wed 09/09	8:15 AM	English Mass
	7:00 PM	Triduum Mass (St Mother Teresa)
Thu 10/09	8:15 AM	English Mass
	7:00 PM	Triduum Mass (St Mother Teresa)
Fri 11/09	8:15 AM	English Mass
	7:00 PM	Triduum Mass (St Mother Teresa)

MINISTRY ROSTERS

Sat 12/09	2:00 AM	Italian Mass	EOCM
	11:00 AM	BVM Nativity (Indian Community)	
(Sat)		Nives Kresevic	Phil Della-Pietra
9:00am		Maria Boccaccio Beena Theodore	Rosa Brunello Frank Ienari
10:30am Italian		Anthony Farinola Nicholas Farinola	Cecilia Mazzone G&L Farinola
6:00pm		Eka Lagivola Angela Ocares	Mimma Adami Jorge Contreras
Sept 13, 2026		Lectors	EOCM
6:00pm (Sat)		Raymond Sequeira Maria Scarsella	Rosa Mazzone Tomas Jimenea
9:00am		Cherry Icamen Loel Ojerio	Teresa Candeloro Francesca Boffo
10:30am Italian		Caterina Sambastian Maria Blgolin	Franca Colangelo T Pecaj, Nella Santo
6:00pm		Precious Galgo Rietta Corkin	Ludwina Tan Rosemary Velardo

COLLECTION (30/08/26)

1st Collection	2nd Collection	Special Collection	Total
\$2,444.00	\$2,276.00		\$4,720.00