



Current Issues in Prayer

March 2021

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



Getting started:

I sit down and listen to the sounds around me for a few minutes. Slowly I shift my focus inwards, contrasting all noise that I can hear with the silence within me. I rest for a while in this silence. When I feel ready, I read the following story.



Short story:

'... Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace'.

Michelle was deeply moved after hearing the priest recite the prayer of absolution during confession. These past years had been very eventful for Michelle, whose life completely revolved around her business. It paid off, because in a few years, she became very rich. However, she could not claim that her wealth was the fruit of honest work. Michelle had a way of cheating her clients, getting big commissions from selling expensive investments that lost value quickly. She was in tension with herself, knowing deep inside that this was wrong.

Michelle's life slowly turned around when she met Karl. He was never judgmental, but was resolute in talking about the suffering of others through her actions. Karl would occasionally invite Michelle to go to mass with him, but she always refused. "As if God wants anything to do with me! I am not a good person like Karl", she would convince herself. When Michelle ran out of excuses, she reluctantly accepted to go along with Karl. That day, the gospel reading was about Matthew, the tax collector who stopped cheating people after meeting Jesus. Straight away, Michelle connected with the story. She realised God was inviting her to accept His forgiveness. Michelle courageously forced herself to go to confession. Anxious and with a trembling voice, Michelle let it all out. Her tension slowly lifted as she gently felt falling onto God's loving embrace. That was when she resolved to change her direction and to work in full honesty to prevent people from suffering.



Time to reflect:

What is my experience of the sacrament of reconciliation? I ponder about this.



Let us pray:

Lord we pray that we approach the sacrament of reconciliation with the acceptance of receiving your mercy and of being welcomed more fully into the community of the Church.



Inspiration:

Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God.

St John Paul II



Hands on:

I invite my friends to receive the sacrament of Confession more often. A good place to start would be to visit these websites <https://www.cathdal.org/confession> and <https://qrar.weebly.com/> as well as watching this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Or8KxB3SAQ>