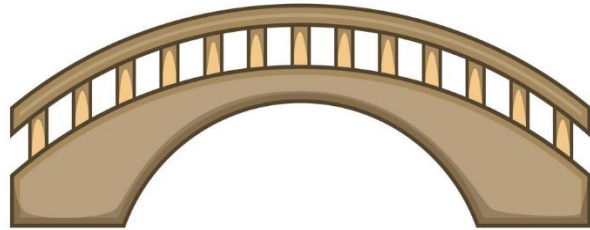


In order for bridges to be built, a person has to acknowledge wrongdoing, so as to be reconciled to others and to God.

Through and in Christ, every human being is offered the power to reach out in forgiveness and peace, to receive and to offer reconciliation.

This can be formally celebrated in the sacrament of Reconciliation



## Building Bridges

Year 4 Topic 8



### OUR BIG QUESTION

What is so important about building bridges?

#### REFLECTION

I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me; I cling to your decrees. O Lord: let me not be put to shame. I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding. Teach me, Lord the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.  
Amen



#### Scripture

Colossians 3: 12-15

Matthew 5: 23-24

Luke 15: 3-7

Mark 12: 28-31

# Big Question: What's so important about building bridges?

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Confession | An act of owning up to your wrongdoings whether they are to yourself or to others.  |
| Penance    | Penance is a way of saying sorry to God. We confess our sins and try to make amends. We then try to make things right by doing good and becoming closer to God. |
| Absolution | The act of forgiving someone when they have done something wrong.   |
| Contrition | We say the Act of Contrition at the beginning of Reconciliation to say sorry to God.  |

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

During this **Sacrament**, Christians confess their **sins** to a priest to say sorry to God who will forgive them. Before taking part Christians examine their consciences to decide what to confess. The priest will never reveal their confessed sins to anyone. Afterwards, the priest will give them a **Penance** to say sorry which might be some prayers to say or acts to do.

### a Prayer (Deuteronomy 6: 4-9)

God gave his people a special reminder of their responsibility to love God. It is a prayer called **the Shema**. Jewish people recite this twice a day.

## The Greatest Commandment (Mark 12: 28-31)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength'.

The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'.

### ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God,

I AM HEARTILY SORRY FOR EVER HAVING OFFENDED THEE, AND I DETEST ALL OF MY SINS, BECAUSE I DREAD THE LOSS OF HEAVEN AND THE PAINS OF HELL; BUT MOST OF ALL, BECAUSE I HAVE OFFENDED THEE, O MY GOD, WHO ART ALL GOOD AND WORTHY OF ALL MY LOVE. I FIRMLY RESOLVE, WITH THE HELP OF THY GRACE, TO CONFESS MY SINS, TO DO PENANCE, AND TO AMEND MY LIFE.

Amen.

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