



## Session 2:

# THE PENITENTIAL RITE (SCRUTINY)

The Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) can be held during Mass on the third week of Lent, if the young person is preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. It is also recommended to use the readings from year A.

The rite of the Sacrament of Penance can be offered during this time for those who have already been baptised. If the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny) is held during the Sunday Mass, we recommend that a separate Liturgy of Penance be held at another time.

The Elect attend Sunday Mass and are dismissed for the following Purification and Enlightenment session. The Rite provides the words of dismissal.

If the Elect are to remain in the assembly for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, appropriate words of instruction can be given.

## Dismissal

After the Elect are dismissed from Mass, they move with the catechist to another area which has a sacred space arranged and comfortable seating for those gathered.

Today at Mass we heard readings from ... (name the readings e.g. Isaiah or Matthew).

1. Tell me something that you heard from the Mass or the readings at Mass.
2. Let's go back and look at the gospel again. Read from the Bible and as you read this, focus on what you might have seen if you had been there. Share your thoughts if you would like to.
3. Read the passage again and pay attention to what might have been heard such as background sounds, people talking. Pay attention to the questions that Jesus or the disciples ask.
4. Now that you have heard this gospel, what will it mean for you this week? Has this created a new impression for you about God or the Church? What is Jesus saying to you? Make a commitment about what you will do differently from now on.

# Exploring

### Sharing after the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)

In your Journal, write the answer to the following questions or share:

How did you feel after the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)?

What stood out for you at the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)?

What was God saying to you during the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny)?

# Looking forward to next week...

“ Barbara Hixon, RCIA Spirituality p 119

Next Sunday the young person will be presented with a treasure of the Church, the Creed. The following week they will be presented with the Lord's Prayer.

The Presentation of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer are the handing over of our ancient treasure to the newest treasure of the Church, the Elect.

The Creed is the summary of our faith and is professed by Catholics around the world. It comes from the Latin word credo which, when literally translated, means “I believe”.

Below is a prayer from The Rite of the Recitation of the Creed (adapted from RCIA 182) which is prayed when the Elect first profess their faith (through the Creed) immediately before being baptised. Listen carefully to the words.



***Lord,  
we pray to you for these Elect,  
who have now accepted themselves  
the loving purpose and the mysteries  
that you revealed in the life of your Son.***

***As they profess their belief with their lips,  
may they have faith in their hearts  
and accomplish your will in their lives.***

***We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***

What words stood out for you in this prayer?

Did you hear the word faith in the prayer? What does faith mean to you?

Write your answers in your Journal.

# Exploring

## Faith

“ Saint Augustine

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.



Hebrews 11:1

The Bible defines faith as ... the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

A person's spirit is described in John 4:10-14 as a spring inside you or in Rev 22:1-2 as a river of life. Richard Rohr in the book *Everything Belongs*, describes faith as being part of a flowing river. The river is flowing; we are in it. The river is God's providential love – so do not be afraid. Faith is the ability to trust, just as we trust the flow of a river. It is a process we don't have to change, improve or coerce. We have to allow it to just flow, as a river flows.

Faith is something we also have in everyday life. For example, we have faith when we travel in a plane; we trust that although we don't understand how it all works we will get to where we want to go. Acts of faith in everyday life and acts of faith in our spiritual life are based on what we don't always understand but accept with faith. The Creed contains our profession of faith.



Did you hear the word Amen in the prayer? What does this word mean to you?

Amen means “I believe”. The Creed contains all the statements of faith held by the Catholic Church, so when we say “Amen” after professing the Creed it means we assent to our faith with our head and heart and will.

Amen comes from the Hebrew word that means faith and steadfastness, reliability and fidelity. St Augustine declared: *“He who says Amen writes his signature”*. YOUCAT 165

# Prayer

Read together the prayer from the Rite of the Recitation of the Creed.

RCIA 182 (adapted)



***Lord,  
we pray to you for us, the Elect,  
we have now accepted ourselves  
the loving purpose and the mysteries  
that you revealed in the life of your Son.  
As we profess our belief with our lips,  
may we have faith in our hearts  
and accomplish your will in our lives.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.***

### Music to listen to:

Matt Maher - Your Love Defends Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwpsDJOyl0o>

Video **Link 2.1**

