



## Penance

*Below is only a brief outline of the sacrament along with the Catholic particularity of each sacrament. The recontextualisation of each sacrament is explored and explained in the "Sacraments Tile" on the Awakenings website.*

This sacrament is one of two sacraments of healing and this sacrament brings about the conversion and reconciliation of believers<sup>[1]</sup>. This sacrament, like all other sacraments, is a gift from God. Through the renewed gift of the Spirit, the believer is invited to a conversion of heart and is offered God's gratuitous gift of reconciliation<sup>[2]</sup>. Through the encounter with the Divine in this sacrament, the renewed gift of the Spirit cleanses and renews that which is broken and recreates a new life for the believer<sup>[3]</sup>. This is a new life of peace with God and others<sup>[4]</sup>.

- Reconciliation is not just about saying sorry for the suffering caused but also about *the sinner encountering the merciful love of God*.
- Reconciliation is not just about starting again but also about *the Spirit renewing that which is broken in the believer*.
- Reconciliation is not just about restoring relationships with others but also about *restoring the believer's relationship with God*.
- Reconciliation is not just about changing one's ways but also about *experiencing a change of heart*.
- Reconciliation is not just about experiencing forgiveness but also *accepting God's gift of reconciliation*.

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[1] Lambert J. Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit: A Postmodern Look at the Sacraments*, trans. Marie Baird (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2007), 62.

[2] Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit*, 63.

[3] Leijssen, 77.

[4] Leijssen, 77.