

# About tonight...

Tonight's reconciliation ceremony  
is gently inspired by aspects of Jewish tradition.

First, our reading from Exodus 34 contains two verses (6-7) known as the "Thirteen Attributes" of God which are part of Jewish penitential prayers.

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According to the Jewish storytelling traditions, after the Golden Calf incident Moses felt that Israel's sin was so serious that there was no possibility of intercession on their behalf. At this point, God appeared to Moses and taught him the Thirteen Attributes, thus offering reassurance that repentance is always possible and that God always awaits our return.

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Secondly, we draw inspiration from the Jewish *Tashlich* ritual. Since the Middle Ages, some Jews have practised the custom of visiting a river or other body of water after their synagogue service on Rosh Hashanah (Jewish new year). There they repeat the following sentence three times while casting bread crumbs into the water:  
*"You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."*

This sentence comes from the Book of Micah:

*"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity...*

*Who does not retain your anger forever, because you delight in showing mercy....*

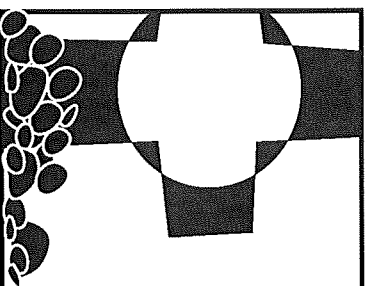
*You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."* (Micah 7:18-20)

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Tonight, as we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we remember that Jesus grew up learning about God's mercy as a faithful Jew who pondered the Hebrew Scriptures.

*"From the earliest days of Christianity, our identity and every aspect of our life and worship have been intimately bound up with the ancient religion of our fathers in faith."*

(Benedict XVI, Rome, 12.2.09)



## Reconciliation

Lent 2009

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish Chatswood

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

Reading: Exodus 34:1-10

God is revealed to Moses as the God of compassion.

Homily & reflection on Ex.34:6-7 (see within).

### Act of Sorrow

Loving Father, we are truly sorry for our sins.  
Your Son lived among us to reveal to us the fullness of your loving compassion. In the depths of our hearts we admit our sinfulness.  
We seek your forgiveness, for you are our God  
whose mercy knows no bounds.

We ask this through, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Individual Confession and Absolution

*Please approach via the centre aisle.*

*If you are making your First Reconciliation, mention this to the priest.*

*If you are not a Catholic, tell the priest and he will give you a blessing.*

*After your confession, move to the area in front of the altar.*

*Pick up a stone. Hold it in your hand. Let it be a symbol of your sin which has been confessed and forgiven. When you are ready, drop the stone into the water, praying quietly this line from Scripture:*

*"You cast our sins into the depths of the sea"*

### Penance:

Spend some quiet time after confession re-reading the Scripture passage from Exodus 34 (inside this leaflet), reflecting on how this Word speaks to your life.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving & Blessing

### Sign of Peace

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# A reflection on the qualities of God ... for our Lenten journey

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## Read:

Take a moment to read the qualities of God (and their expanded explanations):

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” (Ex 34:6-7)

יְהוָה	1	The LORD	I am God before you sin
יְהוָה	2	The LORD	I am God after you sin
אֵל	3	God	Merciful God to <u>all</u> people
רַחוּם	4	Gracious (womb-love)	To those who merit
רַחוּן	5	Compassionate	To those without merit
אֲרֵךְ אַפַּיִם	6	Slow to Anger (patient)	With the wicked, who may still repent
רַב־חַסְדִּים	7	Abounding in steadfast love (kindness)	With those in need of kindness
נֶאֱמַת	8	Faithful	Rewarding those who do God's will
נֶאֱמַר יְהוָה לְאַלְפֵי־מֵאוֹת	9	Assuring love for the thousandth generation	When you do good deeds
נִשְׁכַּח עֲוֹן	10	Forgiving iniquity	When you sin deliberately
נִשְׁכַּח עֲוֹן	11	Forgiving transgression	When you rebel maliciously
נִשְׁכַּח עֲוֹן	12	Forgiving sin	When you sin unintentionally
נִשְׁכַּח עֲוֹן	13	Granting pardon	When you repent