

FINAL PRAYER:

This prayer moment is about taking time to be still again.

To listen to a short accessible piece of scripture and/or music which connects with the theme.

You can suggest that this might be used again at home.

Thank everyone for their generous contribution

Make sure that they know who they can get in touch with for further support.

Tea and Coffee could be available for those who want to chat or have other questions.

Leave a suggestion box near the door with cards for parents to write on and encourage them to make suggestions further support they might need.

PARISH PARENT HELPS

PURPOSE:

- To support parents in their role of handing on faith
- To help parents reflect on the sacraments of reconciliation and first holy communion
- To offer an opportunity for parents to reflect on their own faith
- To offer some tips about how to share faith

FORMAT:

- A session of no more than one hour
- Begin with ten minutes of prayer
- Invite sharing in pairs
- Open up the theme more fully with PPT reflections
- Offer practical tips for working with their child
- End with ten more minutes of prayer
- Then tea and coffee for those who want to linger

SET UP:

- Set up a focus area for the prayer
- Make sure leaflets are printed
- Open up with first slide on PPT
- Follow the process on the PPT

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Just as people are gathering ask them to introduce themselves to the person sitting beside them and to share what they hope for their child
- Then move onto a short explanation of how the time together will be spent

PRAYER

- Move the group into prayer mode by making the sign of the cross slowly and deliberately
- Ask them to say the prayer together aloud from the screen
- Pause for some silence
- Then invite them to share what strikes them in pairs

INTO THE THEME:

- Explain briefly that tonight the theme is
- This session is designed to help you reflect about your own understanding of the sacrament of
- And to help you become confident about having faith conversations at home

REFLECT:

For each part of input there is a corresponding time of reflection with guided questions.

If you want to take feedback you could ask parents to write down their insights on post-it notes.

PRACTICAL ELEMENTS:

The practical elements are meant to encourage parents to practice at home or help children to participate.

These could be mentioned again in the Parish Newsletter, Eg., This week we are encouraging parents who are preparing children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to.....

There could also be a display area in Church which points out these practices.