Dear Parents,

Reconciliation is the Catholic sacrament of healing, in which we confess our sins to God and show repentance, i.e. an effort to avoid committing the sin again and to show sorrow for doing so in the first place. It is a requirement that students who are baptised Catholics, receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation prior to the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Therefore, Year Three or older students who have not already received the sacrament will prepare to receive this sacrament this term in order to proceed with their sacramental journey.

The students will learn about the sacrament of Reconciliation in a classroom program. However, they will also need to attend the following in order to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation.

- Students must attend the **student workshop day** to be run by myself and the Year Three classroom teacher at school on Tuesday March 10th 9am-1:15pm.

*and*

- Students must attend the **First Reconciliation ceremony** beginning with a brief group liturgy at 10:30 am on Saturday March 14th with Fr Michael at The Immaculate Conception Church in Hastings.

Any student who is unable to attend either of the First Reconciliation ceremonies will need to make their own arrangements to receive the sacrament within a Parish by arrangement with a Catholic Priest. In this case please advise me in writing in order to update our school records.

The students will be presented with a special ribbon to signify their preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation at the whole school assembly on Friday March 6th.

**Please complete and return the slip below by Tuesday February 17th.**

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Deefholts

Sacramental Program Coordinator

________________________________________________________________________

My child __________________________________________ in grade: __________________

Is a baptised Catholic wishes to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation. He/she will attend First Reconciliation at 10:30 am with Fr Michael at The Immaculate Conception Church in Hastings on: (please tick)

☐ Saturday March 14th

☐ By own arrangement with Father Michael

Parent’s signature: __________________________