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# RECONCILIATION

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March 27, 2020

*by Father Mark Payne*

Pope Francis's Homily [Lent] is the time to enter into ourselves and to remember the Father and return to our Daddy. 'But, Father, I'm ashamed to go back because, you know, Father I've ...done so many things wrong'. What will the Lord say? 'Return. I will heal their defection. I will love them freely; for my wrath is turned away from them (Hosea 14:4).' Return to your Father. The God of tenderness will heal us." "Going back to God is going back to an embrace, the Father's embrace, It's not going to God. No, it's going back home." I know that many of you go to confession before Easter... Many will say to me: 'But Father...I can't leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord. I want Him to embrace me... How can I do that unless I find a priest?'. Do what the catechism says. It's very clear. If you don't find a priest to go to confession, speak to God. He's your Father. Tell Him the truth: 'Lord. I did this and this and this. Pardon me.' Ask His forgiveness with all your heart with

an act of contrition, and promise Him, 'afterward I will go to confession.' You will return to God's grace immediately. You yourself can draw near, as the catechism teaches us, to God's forgiveness, is without having a priest at hand." (Pope Francis, Homily, March 20, 2020).