

# Dear Padre,

## What is the purpose of confession if we're punished anyway when we die?

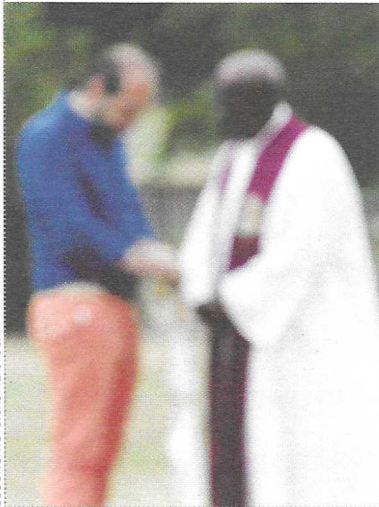
According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, sin has a double consequence: eternal punishment and temporal punishment. “Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life.” This consequence is called the “eternal punishment” of sin. “On the other hand, every sin, even venial...must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the ‘temporal punishment’ of sin” (CCC 1472). Thus, with the remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins, and the remission—at least in part—of the temporal punishments resulting from sin, the sacrament of penance allows penitents to attain complete purification “in such a way that no punishment would remain” (CCC 1472).

Because our relationship with God was ruptured by sin, Christ instituted the sacrament of penance so that our friendship and communion with God

can be restored, including our unity with his body on earth, the Church. In fact, “reconciliation with the Church is inseparable from reconciliation with God” (CCC 1445). The words of absolution in the sacrament attest to this reality: “Through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace.”

God is loving and merciful, not vindictive and unforgiving. Our Creator, who made us to be with him for eternity, doesn't desire an eternal punishment that prevents the very purpose for which we were created!

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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*It is of great comfort and hope to listen to this simple and clear word of Jesus about life beyond death; we need it very much especially in our time, so rich in knowledge about the universe but so lacking in wisdom about eternal life.*

ANGELUS, NOVEMBER 10, 2019

## Calendar

### Monday

NOVEMBER 7

Weekday

Ti 1:1–9

Lk 17:1–6

### Tuesday

NOVEMBER 8

Weekday

Ti 2:1–8, 11–14

Lk 17:7–10

### Wednesday

NOVEMBER 9

*Dedication of the  
Lateran Basilica (Rome)*

Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12

1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17

Jn 2:13–22

### Thursday

NOVEMBER 10

*St. Leo the Great,  
Pope and Doctor  
of the Church*

Phmn 7–20

Lk 17:20–25

### Friday

NOVEMBER 11

*St. Martin of Tours,  
Bishop*

2 Jn 4–9

Lk 17:26–37

### Saturday

NOVEMBER 12

*St. Josaphat,  
Bishop and Martyr*

3 Jn 5–8

Lk 18:1–8

### Sunday

NOVEMBER 13

*Thirty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

Mal 3:19–20a

2 Thes 3:7–12

Lk 21:5–19