

Conversation Check-In

For any sacramental or faith pathway

DO NOT REPEAT THE WHOLE LESSON

Use this after the person or family has worked through part of the assigned preparation. Listen, clarify one central truth, pray and agree the next step.

1 Welcome and listen

How have you been?

Anything from Mass, prayer or since we last spoke that you wanted to mention?

Listen first. Do not rush to fill silence.

2 Look back

Ask what they have worked through since last time. There is no need to check every question or activity.

What stood out to you?

Was anything difficult, surprising or especially helpful?

How did you get on with the practical step?

Pathway / book: _____ Lesson(s): _____

3 One central truth

Choose one important point from what they have covered. Ask them about it in ordinary language.

What do you think this means?

How would you explain that in your own words?

Why does this matter?

Let them answer before explaining. Do not turn the conversation into an examination.

IF SOMETHING IS UNCLEAR

Say: "Let us look at that together." Use the preparation book to clarify the Church's teaching. If you remain unsure, bring the question to Fr John.

4 Connect it with life

Choose one suitable question:

Where do you see this at Mass?

What difference might this make in your life?

How could you live this during the coming week?

For children, use simple concrete examples. For adults, allow the conversation to develop naturally.

Finish the conversation

Questions, prayer and one realistic next step

5 Questions

Is there anything you want to ask?

Take questions seriously. You do not need to know every answer. If you are unsure, say: "I do not know. Let us ask Father." Do not guess.

Refer questions about sacramental history, marriage circumstances, doctrine, readiness or serious pastoral difficulties to Fr John.

6 Pray together

Use the prayer from the pathway where appropriate, or pray briefly in your own words.

A SIMPLE PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for being with us. Help us to know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more faithfully. Guide us in the next step we take. Amen.

7 Agree the next step

Choose one manageable next step and agree the next contact.

Next preparation: _____

One practical step: _____

Next contact: _____

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Has one central truth become clearer?

Has the person had time to speak?

Have you prayed together?

Have you agreed one realistic next step?

Refer to Fr. John?

☐ No ☐ Yes - ordinary follow-up

Reason: _____

Do not record personal sins or unnecessary sensitive information. Safeguarding concerns follow the parish and diocesan safeguarding procedure immediately.

KEEP THE PACE HUMAN

One lesson need not equal one meeting. Several lessons may be discussed together; a difficult lesson may take more than one conversation. Increase or reduce check-ins according to need.

REMEMBER THE ROLE

WELCOME - listen. WALK - help one faithful step. WITNESS - live the faith. The book teaches; the pathway guides; the mentor accompanies; the priest discerns readiness; Christ gives grace.