



Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians: 4:32

Rite to Signing of the Cross



Sacrament of Reconciliation



After the homily, the Priest invites the children, with their parents, to the front of the Church and addresses them in these or similar words:

Celebrant: Today we gather with the children preparing to meet God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To help these children as they journey in faith towards this sacrament, we will make the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads as a sign of Christ's love for them.

Parents and children stand together in front of the altar

Priest addresses the parents:

Celebrant: Parents of these children, first and best teachers in the ways of faith at their Baptism, you made the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of your child as a symbol of their belonging to God and your desire to help them to know God. Do you resolve to continue to help your child come to know better Our Lord Jesus?

Parents: We do

Celebrant: The Church rejoices in this great desire and as a sign of your promise to your child, I invite you now to trace the sign of the cross on your child's forehead as you did at their baptism.

Parents should now make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of their child.

Priest addresses the children:

Celebrant: Dear children, when you were baptised, your parents made the Sign of the Cross on your foreheads as a sign that you now belonged to Jesus. Do you promise to continue to grow in your love for Him through your prayers and your efforts to be close to Him?

Children: We do.

Priest addresses the congregation:

Celebrant: My dear people are you willing by your prayers, your practical support and your example of Christian life, to help these children and their parents to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ as they prepare to meet God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congregation: We are.

Priest addresses the congregation:

Celebrant: Dear children, Jesus Christ loves you very much and we want you to remember this sign of his love every time you pray. So I now invite you to come forward to receive a blessed crucifix and ask that you give it a place of special honour in your home.

Children should now come forward and receive a Crucifix or an image of a Crucifix for them to keep. They should also be given a copy of the prayer that they will say together in the Church and take it home to pray by their Crucifix. As the children come forward, the Celebrant should say:

Celebrant: Receive the cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord, as a sign of his everlasting love for you.

Celebrant: St Francis of Assisi often prayed before the Crucifix; let's pray together a prayer he often prayed:

All together: Heavenly Father, enlighten the darkness of my heart,
and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect love, sense and knowledge,
that I may carry out the commands You ask of me.

Amen.

The children should now return to their places

Prayers of Intercessions

Celebrant: Let us pray for these children and their parents as they begin this new stage together on their journey of faith:

We pray that the faith these children have received at Baptism will now grow stronger every day.

LORD HEAR US/LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US

We pray that these children will feel the support and prayers of our Parish Community.

LORD HEAR US/LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US

We pray that the cross will give them strength in times of sadness or suffering

LORD HEAR US/LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US

We pray that when we are suffering we will look to the cross of Christ for our strength

LORD HEAR US/LORD GRACIOUSLY HEAR US

We now pray in silence bringing the needs of these children before God our Father.....

Celebrant: Dear children, I now call you to continue your preparation and continue to walk in the footsteps of Christ whose cross you have been signed with, and to grow daily in love and friendship with him.