

**Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh**

**Rite of  
Signing of the Cross**

for children preparing for the

**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:

**Priest:** Today we gather with the children preparing to meet God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; we will make the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads as a sign of Christ's love for them.

Parents, at your child's Baptism, 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 you child come to know better Our Lord Jesus?

**Parents:** We are.

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

**Priest:** 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 by your prayers and your trying to be close to him?

**Children:** We do.

The priest now addresses the congregation:

**Priest:** 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?

**People:** We are.

The children should now each be presented with an image of a crucifix with the following prayer printed onto it.

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

Heavenly Father,

enlighten the darkness of my heart,

and give me true faith,

certain hope,

and perfect love, sense and knowledge, Lord,

that I may carry out the commands

You ask of me.

Amen.

The children should now return to their places.