

*Children and parents remain gathered around the altar*

PRESIDER:

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

- ◆ That the faith these children have received at baptism will now grow stronger every day  
*Lord hear us*
- ◆ That they will feel the support and prayers of our parish community *Lord hear us*
- ◆ That the cross will give them strength in times of sadness or suffering *Lord hear us*
- ◆ That when we are suffering we will look to the cross of Christ for our strength *Lord hear us*
- ◆ We now pray in silence bringing the needs of these children before God our Father.....

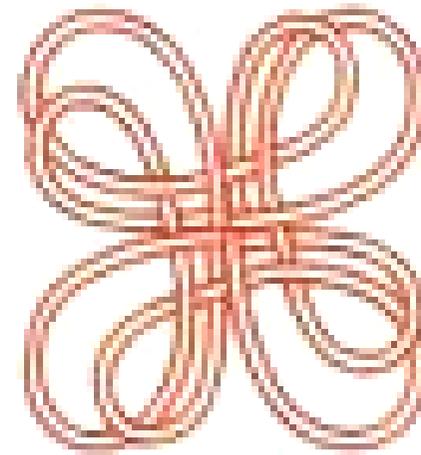
PRESIDER: Dear children, do you now wish to prepare for the celebration of the great sacrament of reconciliation

CHILDREN; We do

PRESIDER: Thanks be to God. 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.

*The children and parents return to their place  
as the parish welcomes them*

## Signing with the Cross



*Liturgical Rites on the way to the celebration of  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

At this celebration we welcome the children and parents who are preparing for the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation.

To help these children as they journey in faith towards this sacrament we will sign them today with the sign of the cross.

This will be a sign to them and a reminder to us of Christ's everlasting love

*Parents are invited to gather around the altar with their child*

Presider: So I now address you parents of these children, first and best teachers in the ways of faith.

At your child's baptism you promised to accept the responsibility of bringing your child up in the practice of the faith. Are you still resolved to do so?

Parent: I am with the help of God

Presider: 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 trace the sign of the cross on the children's heads.*

Presider: Here are the names of those who wish to continue their journey of faith by preparing to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.

*A catechist reads out the names of the children.*

Presider: 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, give it a place of special honour in your home.

*As each child comes forward the priest says;*

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