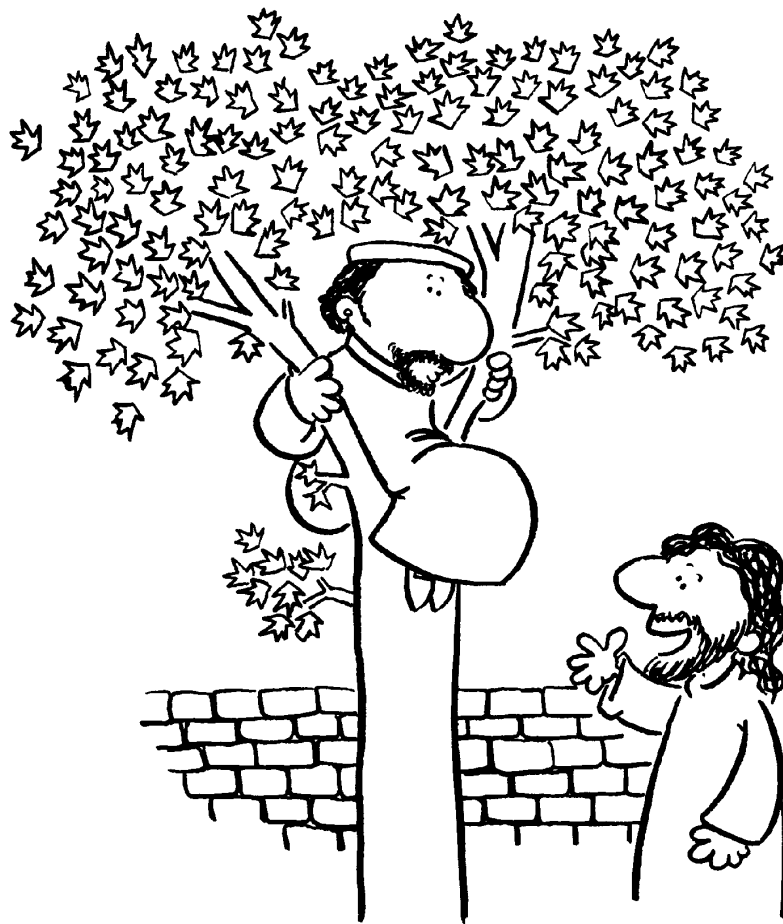


# Sacramental Journey

## Reconciliation



Guidance for Parents  
and  
Activities for Children

In accordance with Canons 823 and 827.1 approval and permission for publication is granted for the following catechetical publication:

## Sacramental Journey

*Nihil Obstat*



Philip J Kerr, S.T.L  
Censor Deputatus

*Imprimatur*



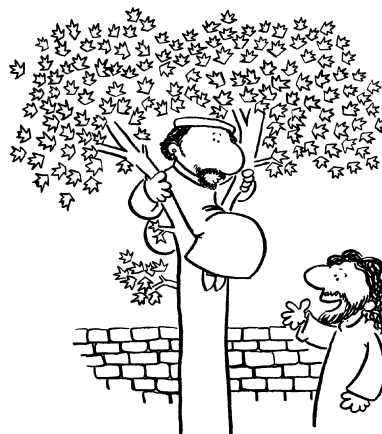
+Stephen Robson STD, JCL  
Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator  
Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh

15<sup>th</sup> August 2013

*Solemnity of the Assumption*

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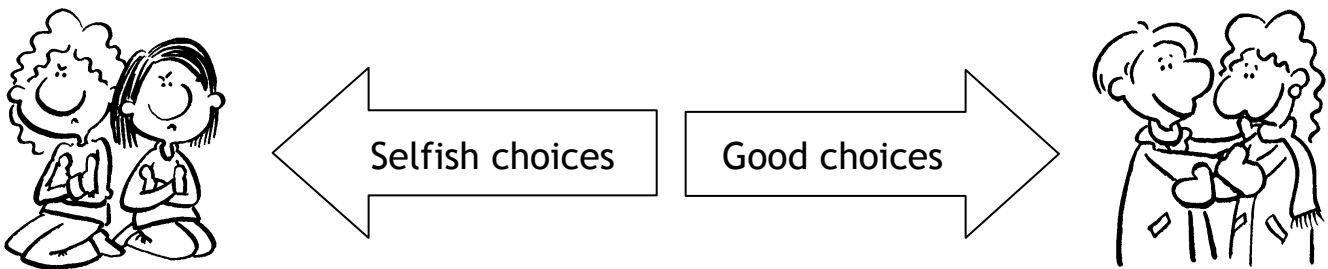
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## Reconciliation (Introduction)

Preparing for First Reconciliation is an important step on your child's journey of faith. This Activity book forms part of a number of resources which school and parish will provide to assist you in preparing your child for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will receive further help when you attend the Parents' Gatherings in your parish and also from some of the material within the resources and documents section of the Archdiocesan website: [www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com](http://www.archdiocese-edinburgh.com)

Throughout the course of this year your child will have a series of tasks to be completed at home. On the following pages there is an explanation of the work done in school and suggestions of how you can help your child to complete the Home Tasks. Please choose a time when your child is not tired and sit together in a quiet place and make it a special focused time for your child who is preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Following each Home Task you may say one of the simple prayers suggested at the end of the task.

As parents or carers you are the first and most important educators of your children keeping them safe and helping them to develop. As children grow up they need to be guided to understand the difference between right and wrong actions since at times they will be presented with situations where they must make a choice. Children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are prepared, with your help, to make these choices in line with the values of Jesus and the Gospel.



We are all made in God's image and likeness and, as Children of God, we all have innate goodness. Praise is very important. Jesus called children "the greatest in the Kingdom of God." We don't always fulfil our goodness and need to be helped to see that what we have done is wrong. In this year of preparation you can help your child to grow in understanding of how this relates to living out their baptism and following Jesus more closely.

This will help them to develop the ability to be more aware of how they are making choices that are based on the Gospel values of Jesus. You can support your child on his/her journey towards the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation by -

- ❖ being consistent, distinguishing between things done deliberately or by accident
- ❖ emphasising the importance of telling the truth
- ❖ helping your child to understand, “WHY is the action wrong?”
- ❖ encouraging your child to talk to God about his/her actions
- ❖ showing your child that you do forgive him/her and encourage him/her to forgive others
- ❖ encouraging your child to say sorry, accept forgiveness and move on
- ❖ explaining that your child must resolve not to make the same wrong choice
- ❖ presenting Jesus as a model for your child’s behaviour
- ❖ reassuring your child of God’s forgiveness when we are truly sorry for our sins

**The word reconciliation means: to bring back together**

- ❖ To celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, your child has to
- ❖ admit s/he has done something wrong (has ‘sinned’) in the presence of God
- ❖ say sorry to God
- ❖ accept forgiveness from God
- ❖ ask God to help him/her to live more like Jesus

Above all remember that as a parent-

What you **SAY** is important - talk quietly and calmly to your children.

What you **DO** is important - treat your family and other people with respect.

Who you **ARE** is most important of all - lead by your prayerful faith-filled example.

The Bible Stories in these notes have been adapted from *The Everyday Children’s Bible* but the Bible references have been included in each case for ease of reference should you use another Children’s Bible.

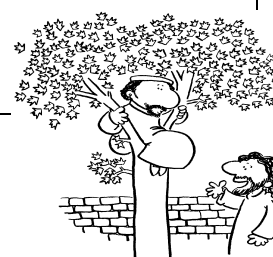
If you are unsure how to proceed at any point in this learning process do not hesitate to ask for help from school and/or your parish catechist.

# RECORD OF HOME TASKS FOR PARENTS

It is time to do

Please return to school by

Home Session 1	
Home Session 2	
Home Session 3	
Home Session 4	
Home Session 5	
Home Session 6	
Home Session 7	
Home Session 8	
Home Session 9	
Home Session 10	
Home Session 11	
Home Session 12	
Home Session 13	
Home Session 14	



## Guidance for Parents Home Session 1 Joining the Family of God through Baptism

Jesus began his public ministry (serving God) and was baptised in the River Jordan by his cousin, John the Baptist.

Read the Bible story with your child.

**Jesus is Baptised** - *Matthew 3:13-17*

*Jesus came to the River Jordan one day. He was now a man of about thirty and had been a carpenter for many years.*

*Jesus stepped forward as John was calling people to be baptised.*

*John knew straight away who he was. He also knew he was not worthy to baptise Jesus.*

*But Jesus persuaded John and told him it was what God wanted him to do.*

*As Jesus came out of the water, God's spirit came down from heaven like a dove and rested on Jesus' shoulder.*

*A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son. I love you very much. I am pleased with you."*

Discuss with your child:

- ❖ What was the name of the river in the story?
- ❖ Who was calling the people to be baptised?
- ❖ What relation was John the Baptist to Jesus?
- ❖ How do you think John felt when he saw Jesus?
- ❖ Why do you think that John did not want to baptise Jesus at first?
- ❖ What happened when Jesus came out of the water?
- ❖ What words were spoken by the voice from Heaven?



Pray the *Promise Prayer* together - page 34.

Your child should now complete Home Activity 1

# Home Activity 1 Joining the Family of God through Baptism

Complete the Baptism Word search

w	i	l	d	g	h	o	n	e	y	h	j
a	k	m	l	o	c	u	s	t	s	n	b
t	b	f	o	r	g	i	v	e	v	c	a
e	x	z	q	e	w	r	t	y	l	k	p
r	j	c	g	p	f	S	p	i	r	i	t
d	m	l	n	e	b	v	c	x	z	k	i
j	h	o	g	n	f	d	J	e	s	u	s
s	p	t	y	t	r	w	o	q	l	k	e
f	d	h	z	x	c	v	r	b	n	m	d
q	r	i	v	e	r	w	d	r	t	y	p
s	i	n	s	l	h	e	a	v	e	n	k
m	n	g	b	v	c	o	n	f	e	s	s

Jesus

water

heaven

Spirit

baptised

repent

honey

forgive

clothing

locusts

wild

river

Jordan

sins

confess



This Sacramental preparation programme has been written in accordance with the Scottish Roman Catholic syllabus which was granted the decree of “Recognitio” by the Holy See in 2011.

Written by Audrey Newton & Moira Claase © 2013

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