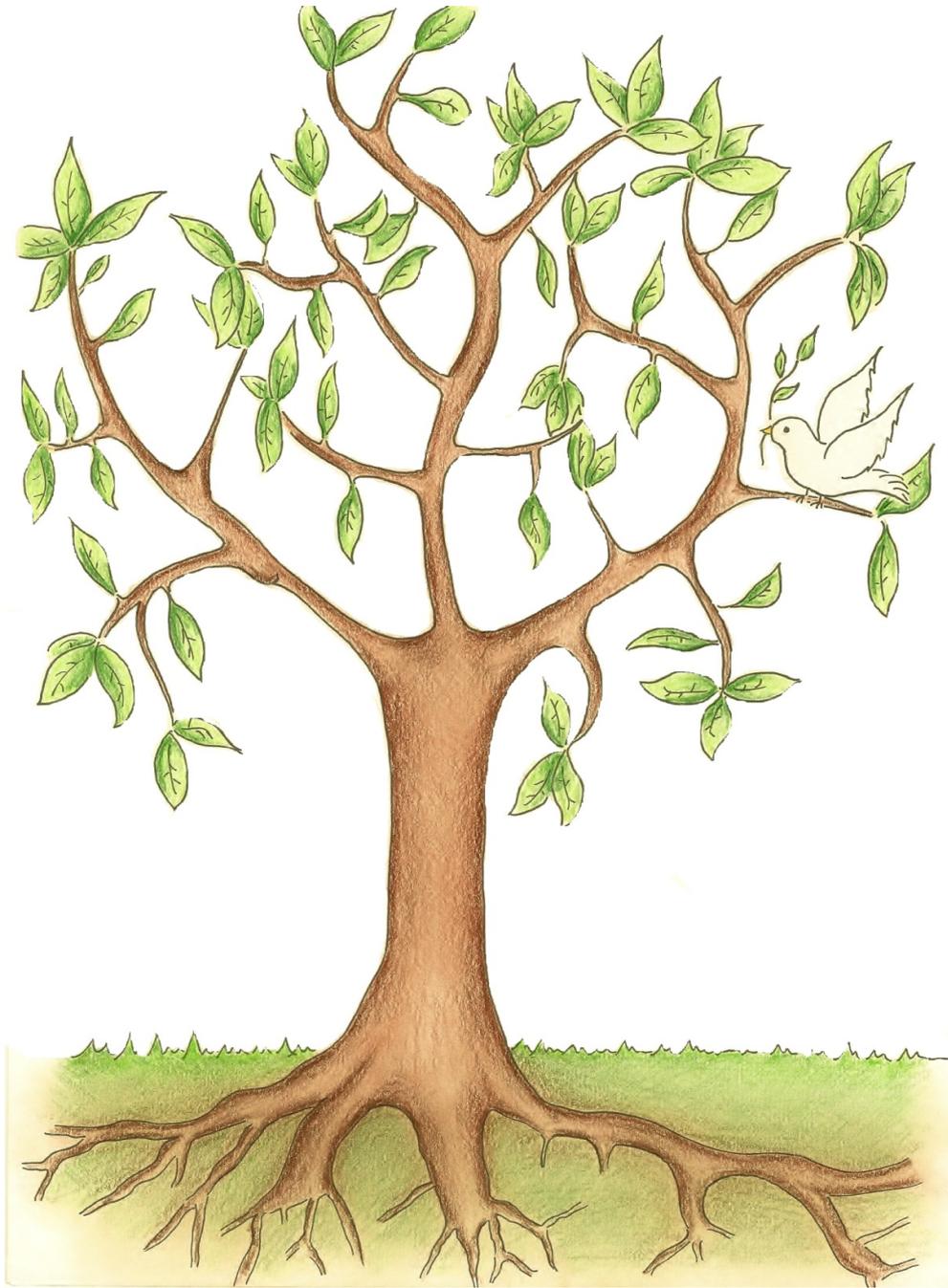


# Diocese of Motherwell



## First Reconciliation Family Workbook

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This workbook is published by the Religious Education department of the Diocese of Motherwell, which asserts copyright over its contents as its intellectual property.

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Scripture texts are taken from the Contemporary English Version © 1995 American Bible Society, and the Jerusalem Bible © 1985 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Company Inc.

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**School** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date I started this workbook** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date I completed this workbook** \_\_\_\_\_

# Introduction

## Welcome

Welcome to the First Reconciliation workbook. The first gift of the risen Christ was the gift of forgiveness, which he entrusted to his Church as he appeared to his frightened disciples on Easter morning. We encounter God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when our fear and guilt melt away as we hear the priest's words, "I absolve you from all your sins." All we need to do is ask sincerely, and God will forgive. As Pope Francis said so memorably at the beginning of his ministry:

"Let us not forget this word: God never ever tires of forgiving us. He never tires of forgiving, but at times we get tired of asking for forgiveness. Let us never tire, let us never tire! He is the loving Father who always pardons, who has that heart of mercy for us all."

For the children, the Sacrament of Reconciliation marks the first post-Baptismal step on their journey of sacramental encounter with God. As the name implies, First Reconciliation is meant to be the first of a lifetime of celebrations of the sacrament. In their preparation, they will consider some of the best-loved parables and stories of the bible: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Son and the Loving Father, and Zacchaeus. As teachers and parents, having the pleasure of interacting with these passages and the children's enjoyment of them, can lead to a rediscovery of the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an adult. God gives his forgiveness freely if we have the courage to ask, and the greatest sign and instrument of God's forgiveness is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## **For parents**

When your child was baptised, you undertook to bring them up in the Catholic faith, and the fact that you are reading this now shows that you have taken that responsibility seriously. Being a parent of a Catholic child is a challenge but also a great privilege. You are the first educator of your child, and what you teach them about the faith by word and example will last them for the rest of their life and into eternity. This workbook recognises that you are the most important person in your child's preparation for the sacraments, and that the school and parish are there to assist you. Spending time with your child on the sessions, in discussion, activity and prayer, will be a pleasure, and will help you to discover more about the Catholic faith, whether you are Catholic or not, and whatever your faith practice has been. Don't be afraid! God looks on you as well as your child with the eyes of a loving Father. More information and useful websites are available at [www.rcdom.org.uk/parents-resources](http://www.rcdom.org.uk/parents-resources), to support this workbook.

The sessions recognise the role which Godparents (and by extension grandparents and others) have in the faith life of your child, and they are welcome to take part in the sessions, especially if you are unable to contribute during that particular week.

## **For teachers**

This workbook does not stand alone, but is one of many resources which are the fruit of '*This is Our Faith*', our Scottish national syllabus for RERC. In particular, it dovetails with the wider diocesan sacramental preparation materials, available in Prezi and Powerpoint format. The teachers who wrote the workbook sessions, worked simultaneously on the classroom sessions, selecting one activity to appear in the workbook to provide a bridge to the home session. In the spirit of '*This is Our Faith*', all the materials are designed to inspire creativity in teachers, to share good practice and ideas, and to favour an experience of the faith which is

enjoyable and fun as well as faithful to the scriptures and the apostolic tradition.

Our grateful thanks go to the teachers from across the diocese who contributed to the workbook and wider materials, for their selfless and skilful work, and to the head teachers who encouraged them.

### **For clergy**

The sacramental workbooks and other materials have consciously tried to recognise that children are parishioners as well as members of families and pupils, and to favour links to the parish. Sacramental practices vary from parish to parish, but we sincerely hope that the preparation in school and at home will flow into collaboration with the parish, and encourage sacramental participation in the life of the parish. As clergy you are an important resource in sacramental preparation, and a valued source of encouragement to parents, teachers, and the children themselves.

## Information for parents

	Please now do this activity and prayer with your child (tick):	Please return the workbook to school by:
Home activity 1		
Home activity 2		
Home activity 3		
Home activity 4		
Home activity 5		
Home activity 6		
Home activity 7		

# 1. Made in God's Image

## **For Parents/Godparents**

The journey to the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins with the good news: we are all made in the image and likeness of God! God has created us unique, gifted and loved. The psalms tell us that God has loved us from the very first moment of our lives in our mother's womb, and St Paul reassures us that we are God's special work of art. The image of God in us can become dulled and smudged by our sins, but God always calls us back and restores us. In this first session, the children are asked to reflect, with your help, on their own goodness and beauty, which is a reflection of God's own goodness, truth and beauty.

## **Putting our Faith into Action**

In this first Home Session, share with your child reasons why they are so special and unique. For example, you could discuss with them the special talents and traits which they have. You could briefly explain that others may have the same talents but each person is different and therefore unique. Talk about the talents that you both have and how they are the same/different from others around you.

You could also discuss the day they came into the family, special memories of your child when they were younger like a birthday party or special event/holiday.

If you have photographs of these special memories you could look at them together and remember who was there and what was happening.



# At School



We will learn about

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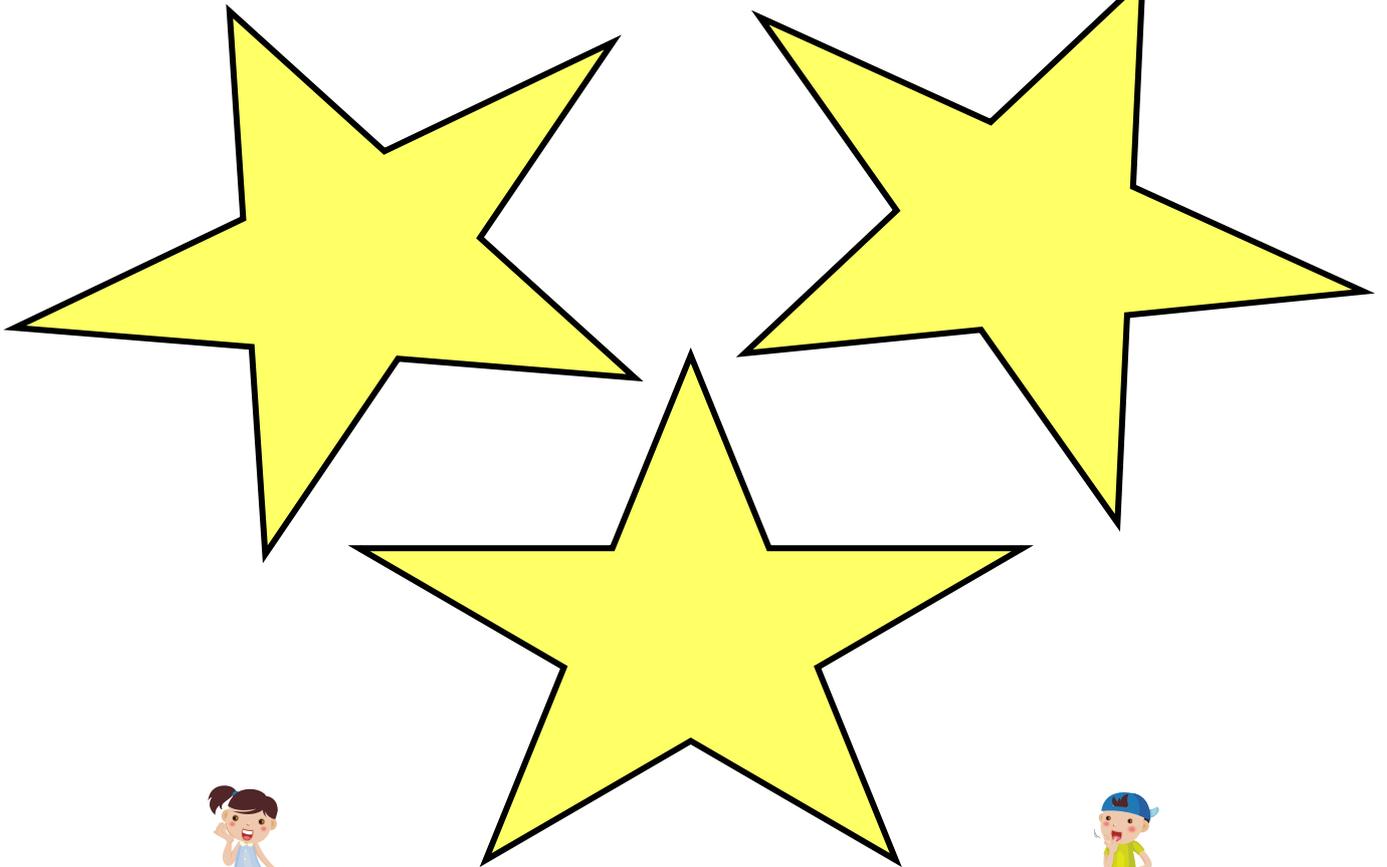
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Think of three things  
that make you  
unique and special.



I am unique because...



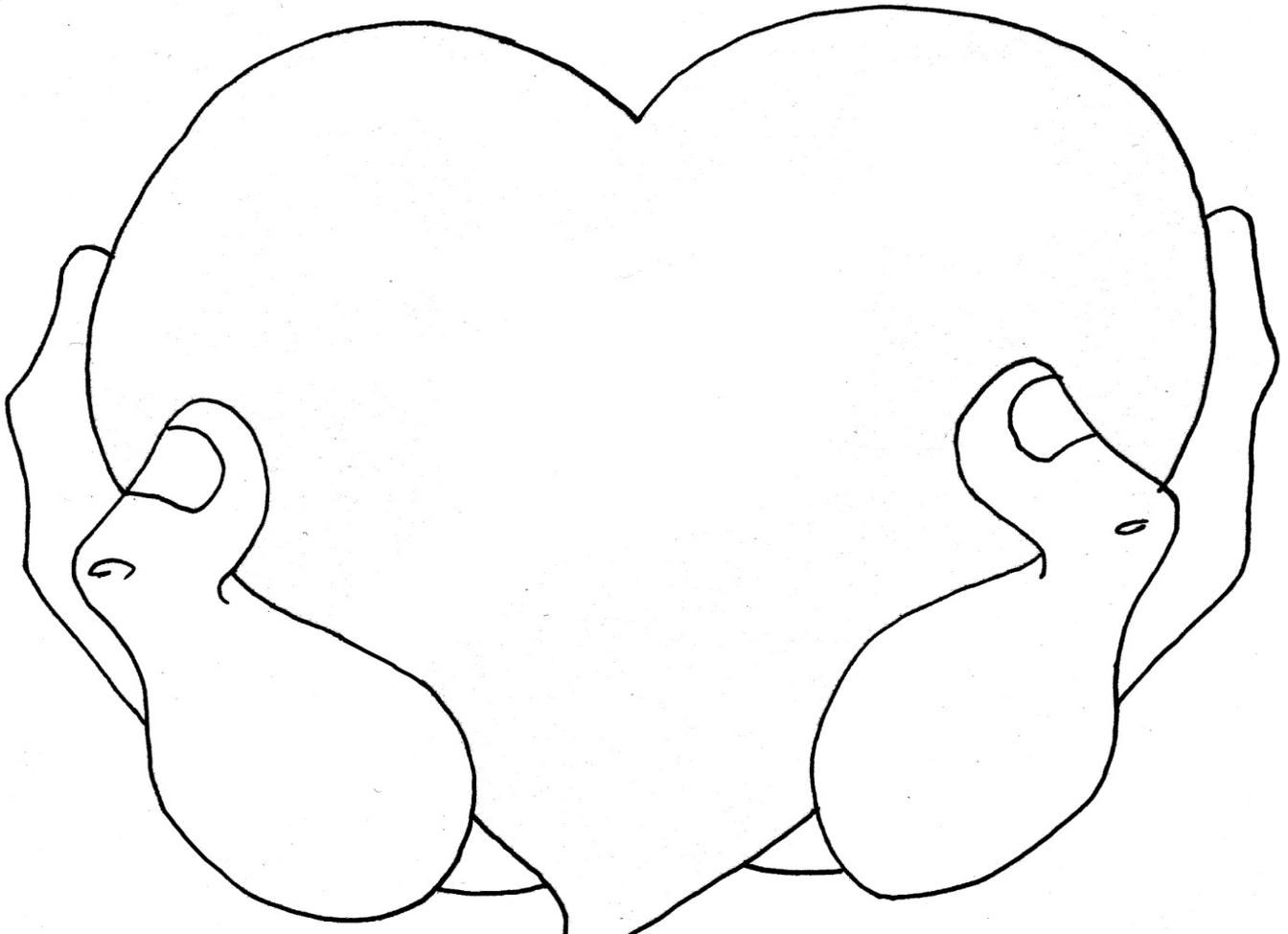


# At school



In the Bible, St Paul tells us that God loves us and that we are God's Work of Art (Ephesians 2: 10).

Draw a detailed picture of yourself as God's Work of Art.



## Scripture Reading: Psalm 139

"It was you who created my inmost self, and put me together in my mother's womb; for all these mysteries I thank you: for the wonders of myself, for the wonders of your works."

Talk about the scripture reading with your partner.

- What makes you unique?
- Can you think of a special talent that you have?
- Who has told you that you are special?
- How did you feel when

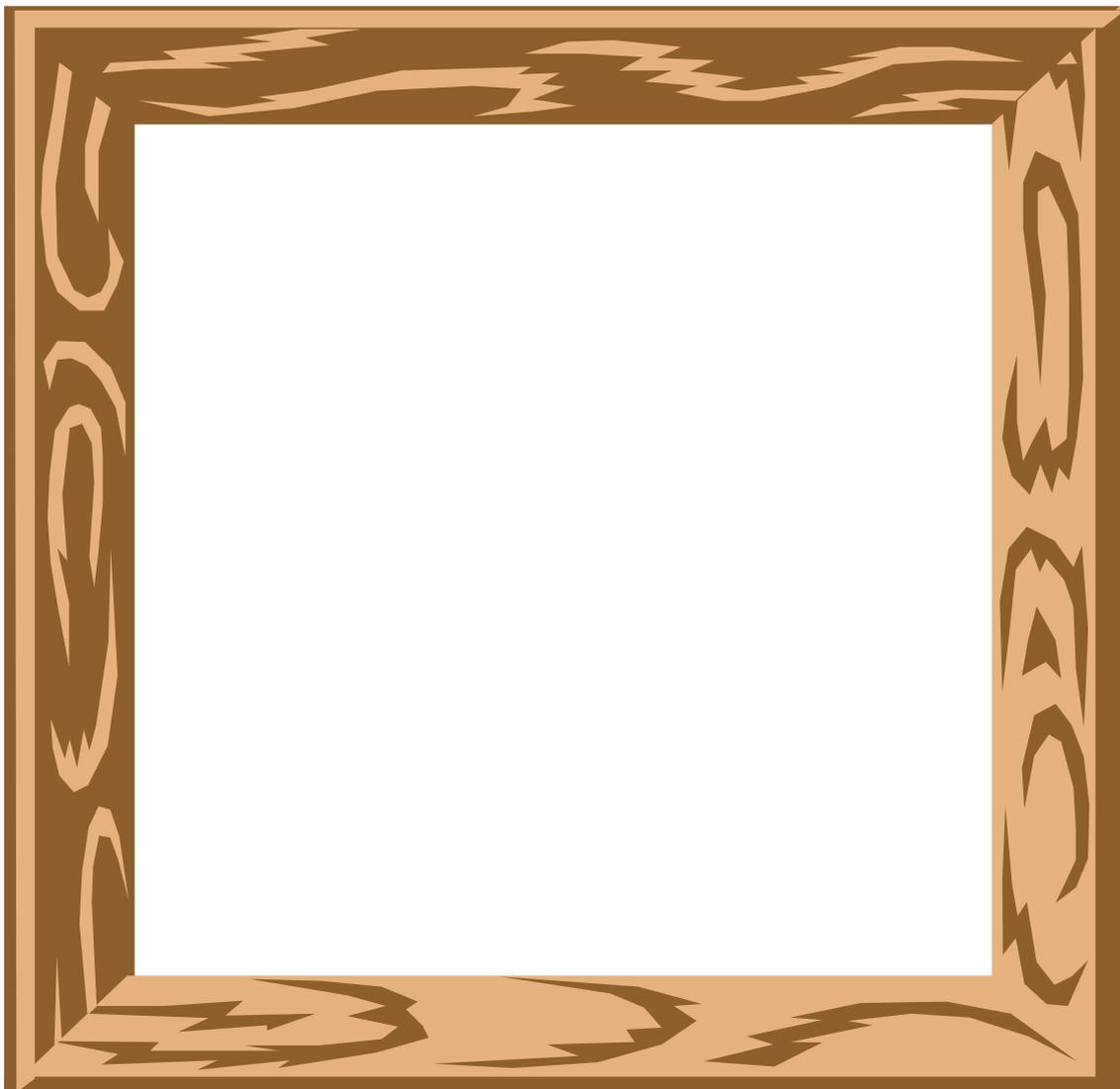


# At Home 1



**Learning Together:** Talk to your child/godchild about what makes them unique and special. You could include their unique traits and talents that make them individual. You could discuss special memories that you have shared together, for example, when they began to walk or their first day at nursery or school. Look out photographs and talk about them including others in the picture.

Place a photo or draw a picture of a special memory unique to you.





# Prayer time at Home



## Praying Together

Find a quiet place with your parent/godparent.

Light a candle, if you have one, to remind you that *God* is with you.

**"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen."**

Close your eyes and still yourself. Know that *God* is with you in your silence and stillness. Discuss quietly with your parent/godparent the memories that you have been sharing.

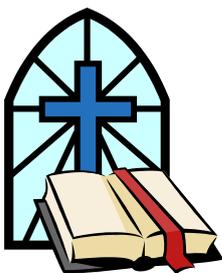
After a few moments of silence say the following together:

**"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.  
I chose you to be mine."**

Thank you *God* for the memories that you have made for us and we have shared together.

**Our Father, who art in Heaven..**

**In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son and of  
the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**





## 2: Chosen in Baptism

### **For Parents/Godparents**

In the classroom the children are being reminded about the Sacraments that we receive within our faith. They are reminded that they have already experienced their first Sacrament which was their Baptism. From what they have learned in Primary 2 the children will expand upon their previous knowledge by being reminded about the symbols of Baptism and the importance of these. In the classroom we will tell the children that there are seven Sacraments within our Faith, and that Reconciliation will be the second Sacrament that they will receive.

### **Putting our Faith into action**

You can help your child/God-child by discussing their Baptism and perhaps sharing your memories of this special day. This could be perhaps by looking at photographs, any gifts received or special keepsakes such as their own Baptismal candle. Another discussion which is pertinent would be to discuss the importance of their name and why we choose specific names before Baptism. You could also briefly touch on the basic Baptismal Promises that the parents made for your children on the day of their Baptism.

# At School

We will learn about

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Think of four things that we can recall learning about our Baptism.

Tip: Think about special garments worn or any other specific symbols of Baptism.

_____	_____
<b>Baptism</b>	
_____	_____



# Symbols of Baptism



## Scripture

Reading: **Matthew  
3:13-17**

Baptism of  
Our Lord

Read the Bible Story of Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan. Discuss the significance of the holy water in our faith, especially in the Sacrament of Baptism. You could talk about other stories such as the 'Washing of the Feet' or the Story of 'Bernadette at Lourdes'

Think about the stories that you have heard today. List three facts about the importance of Holy Water in our faith and in the Sacrament of Baptism

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of one of the symbols of Baptism (garment, candle, holy water font).



## At Home 2



**Learning Together:** Talk to your child/godchild about the Sacrament of Baptism. This section will involve looking at their own Baptism and discussing the name that you chose for your child when they were born and why you chose this name in particular (middle names could also be included). If your child was named after a Saint you could perhaps discuss that particular Saint and look at their life. You could also share your memory of their Baptism by looking back at photographs and discussing who attended. Godparents play an extremely important part in the Baptism of your child and this could lead to the discussion point of why you chose them.

**My name is**

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**My parents chose this name for me because**

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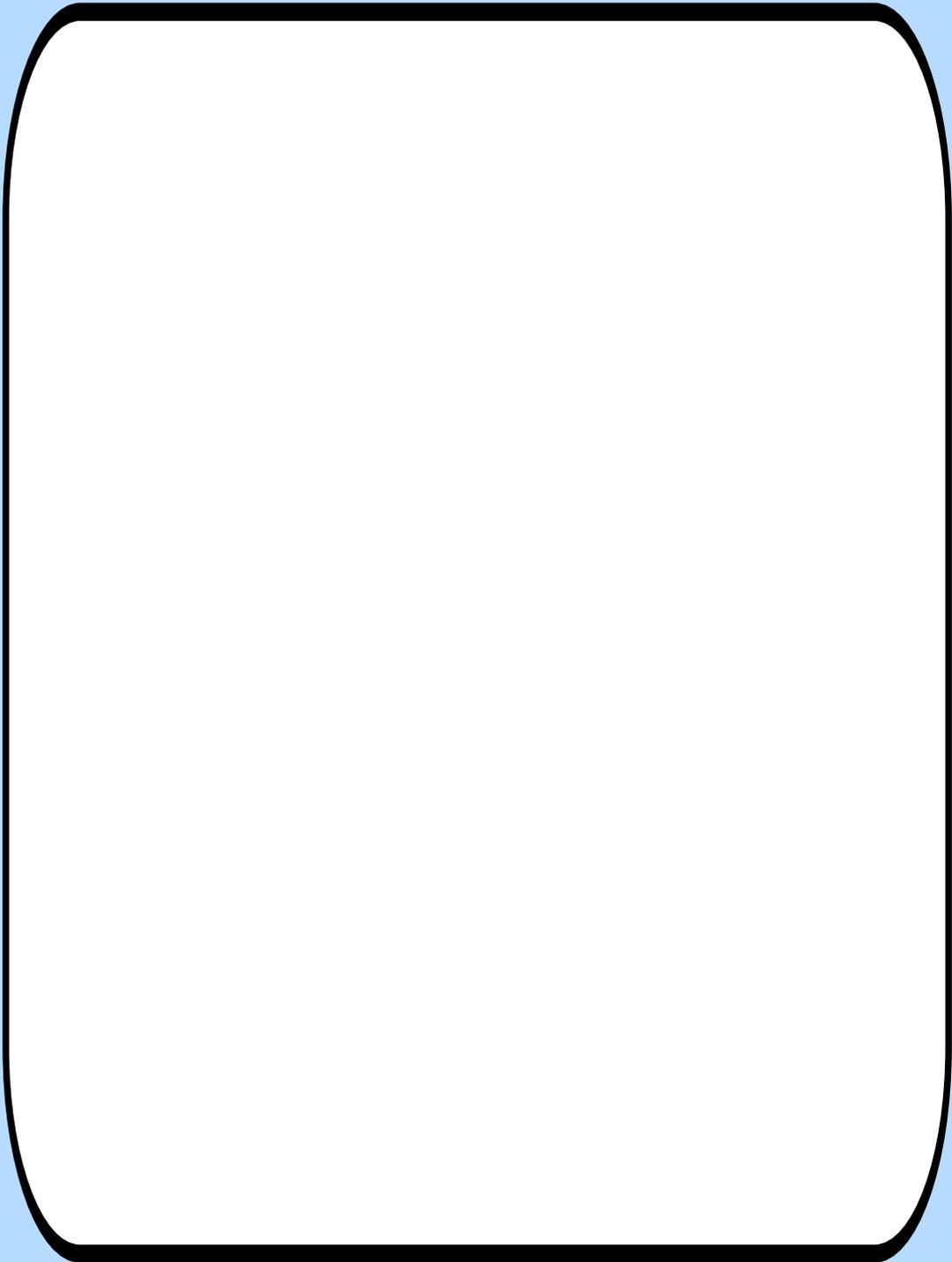
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**My Godparents are**

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You could perhaps add a picture of your Baptism or even one of you and your parents and Godparents.





# Prayer time at Home

## Light your prayer candle

As we light the candle we know that God is with us.  
God loves each one of us.  
God has made us in his image and we know we are special and unique.

Now close your eyes and place your hands gently on your lap.  
Say the following prayer with your child:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

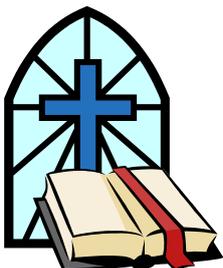
Thank you for my loving family.  
Thank you for helping me to become a loving member of  
God's family. Help me to always display love within  
Your family and my family.

### Act of Sorrow

Oh my God, thank you for loving me.  
I am sorry for all of my sins,  
For not loving others and for not  
loving you, Help me to live like  
Jesus and not sin again.  
Amen

### Hymn

'Do Not Be Afraid'





## 3: Jesus the Healer

### For Parents/Godparents

In the classroom the children are exploring the ministry of Jesus, how he healed many people, often using gestures as well as words. This reassured people of his love and attention towards them, much as a hug from a parent, a friend or a husband/wife can speak more clearly than a thousand words. People who are ill benefit from a caring touch e.g. by taking their hand: this gesture says, "I am close to you, you are not alone". At the time when Jesus lived, ill people were often kept apart from others, and considered to have been punished by God. By touching and healing them, Jesus was saying, "You are accepted by me and by God my Father."

### Putting our Faith into action

Over the past few years since your child was born, you have been showing them love and affection through touch as well as words. During this week you can help them to understand how this mirrors God's love. The home session focuses on loving hands: how we can use our hands to pick up someone who has fallen, or help around the house. You can help your child to use their hands to worship God during the prayer-time: e.g. by blessing themselves with the sign of the cross, lighting a candle, or shaking hands as a sign of peace. You can also help them to understand that God's loving hands lift us up when we fall down in our Christian living, when we don't live as we should.



# At School

Read the following scripture passages:

**Scripture  
Reading:  
John 9: 1-7**

Healing of the  
man born blind

**Scripture  
Reading: Matthew  
8:14-15**

Healing of  
Peter's  
Mother-in-law



Discuss the events of the narratives, especially how Jesus healed by gesture and touch as well as words.

You could focus on how hands can help those who are sick to feel better e.g. giving someone who is crying a hug, holding the hand of someone in hospital, putting a plaster on a cut knee.

You could point out how we use our hands when we go to church e.g. to bless ourselves, give the sign of peace, and how the priest stretches out his hand over us to forgive our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

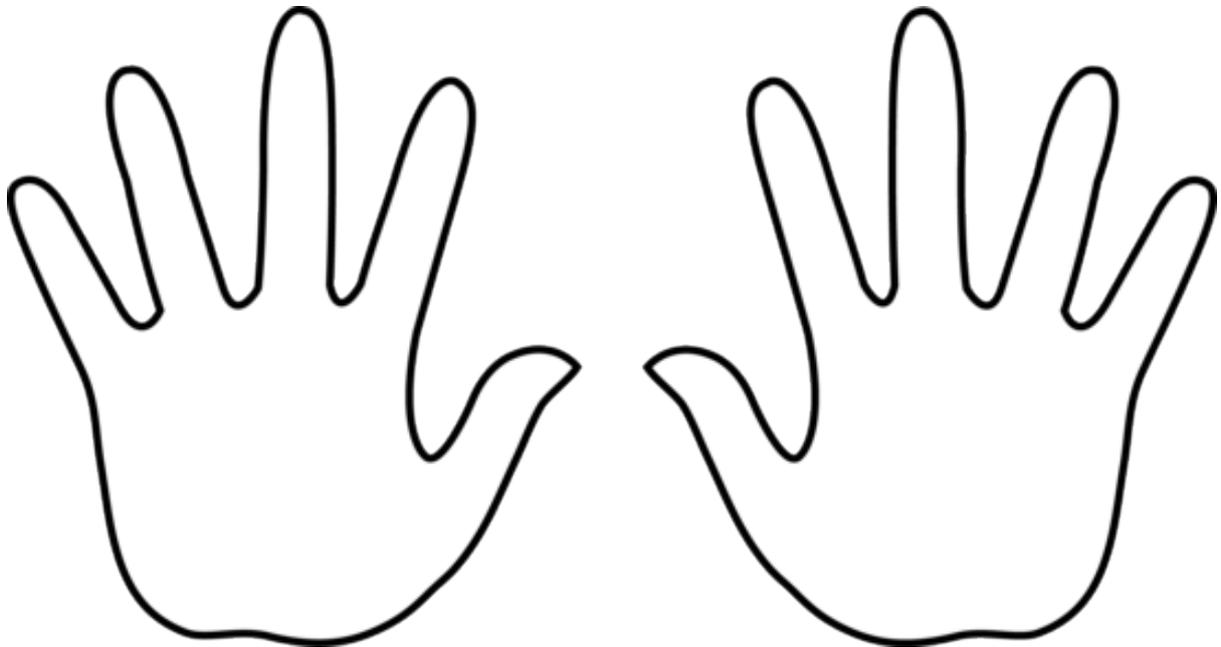
# At School

## Activity

Working with a partner, the children can draw around their partner's hand and their partner can draw around theirs.

Inside the cut-out of the hand, they can write on each finger the things that they use their hands for e.g. drawing, writing, washing, and especially ways in which they use their hands to help others.

These hands can be displayed and afterwards returned home by children.





## At Home 3

### Learning together

Discuss with your parents/godparents a time when you fell and needed help. It might have been at home or in school. Who helped to heal you? What did they do and say to help you? Draw and write about it here:

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a black border, intended for a student to draw and write about a time they needed help.

Retell the stories you heard in school about Jesus the Healer.

**Who did he heal?**

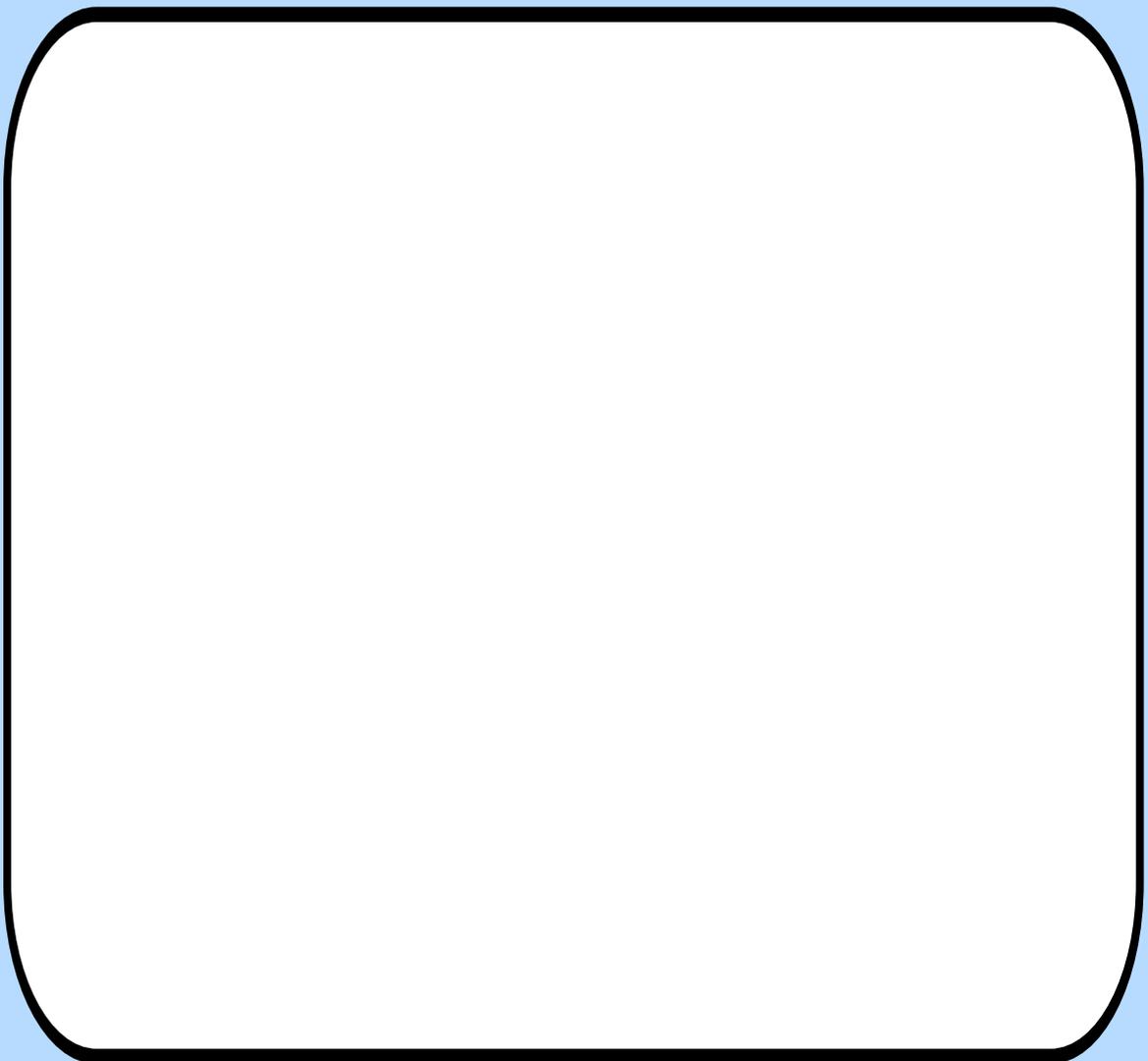
**What did he do?**



# At Home

Show your parents/godparents the 'helping hand' you made in school. Discuss what you have written on each finger.

Draw around your parent/godparent's hand below and ask them to write the ways they help others on each finger, to make a 'helping hand'. Ask them to draw round your hand inside the outline of their hand, and make your own 'helping hand' by writing on each finger, just like you did in school.





# Prayer time at Home



## Light your prayer candle

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Join your hands and pray:  
God's love and forgiveness can heal me when I make  
choices that are selfish or that lack love.

Help me, Father, to make good choices and to use my hands  
in ways which show your love. Lord, say the word and  
my soul shall be healed. Amen.

Hold the hands of the people you are praying  
with and say the **Our Father**.

**In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**



## 4: What was lost is found

### **For Parents/Godparents:**

Jesus, the Son of God, was an excellent teacher as well as healer, and one of his most effective and memorable teaching tools was his use of parables. On one level, parables are simple stories using familiar imagery (farming, fishing, weather etc.), but they are more than just comforting stories: they allow us to see the world in new ways and challenge our assumptions about God and ourselves. For example, the parable of the Good Samaritan challenged racism and discrimination against Samaritans. The parable of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son paint a picture of people who celebrate out of proportion to what is found: the woman who loses the coin would spend more on the party than the coin itself was worth! Jesus is telling us that God, too, is ridiculously happy when he finds us after we have wandered off on our own selfish path.

### **Putting our Faith into Action:**

Children love the parable of the Lost Sheep, which is the focus of this session. They also relate to ideas of themselves or other people/precious things being lost and found, and the sense of rejoicing which accompanies rediscovery.

They can also understand their own choices, for good or bad, in terms of turning away from God/turning back to God. Your own way of forgiving them, encouraging them to say sorry and the hug which says 'I forgive you', will help them to experience God the Father's merciful love for them.

# At School

We will learn about

- The parable of the Lost Sheep Luke 15:1-7
- Role of a shepherd
- Jesus is our loving and forgiving shepherd

Discuss what a parable is and why Jesus used them.

Read the parable of the Lost Sheep.

You could invite a shepherd to school to discuss his present day role.



Let's listen to the parable of the Lost Sheep, and the Lost Coin:

**Scripture  
Reading:**

**Luke 15:1-7**

The Lost Sheep

**Scripture  
Reading:**

**Luke 15:8-10**

The Lost Coin

Colour in the shepherd and his lost and found sheep.



Here are some activities which can be done in class

Create a 3D shepherd

Make the flock using arts and crafts or bring in toy animals.

### The Lost Sheep

Children write to a shepherd asking about his/her role (contact RHET - Royal Horticulture Educational Trust)

Children re-enact the parable focusing upon character and feeling.

Reflect upon the meaning of the parable and focus upon the forgiveness and reconciliation of the shepherd in the parable and Jesus as the Good Shepherd.



## Prayer time in School



We light our candle and remember that God is always with us. Let us pray.

We know that God loves each one of us. We know that we are good and we know that God wants us to show our goodness to others. We know that God forgives us when we lose our way like the lost sheep and we say we are sorry. Let us thank God.

Oh my God, thank you for forgiving me. Help me to love others. Help me to live like Jesus asked us to. Amen. Sign of the Cross.

**Sing and learn** - Do not be afraid      O Lord all the world belongs to you



God forgave my sin, or as appropriate.

# At home 4

**Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-7**

## **The Lost Sheep**

Tax collectors and sinners were all crowding around to listen to Jesus. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses started grumbling,

"This man is friendly with sinners. He even eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this story: If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do?

Won't you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home.

Then you will call in your friends and neighbours and say,

"Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep."

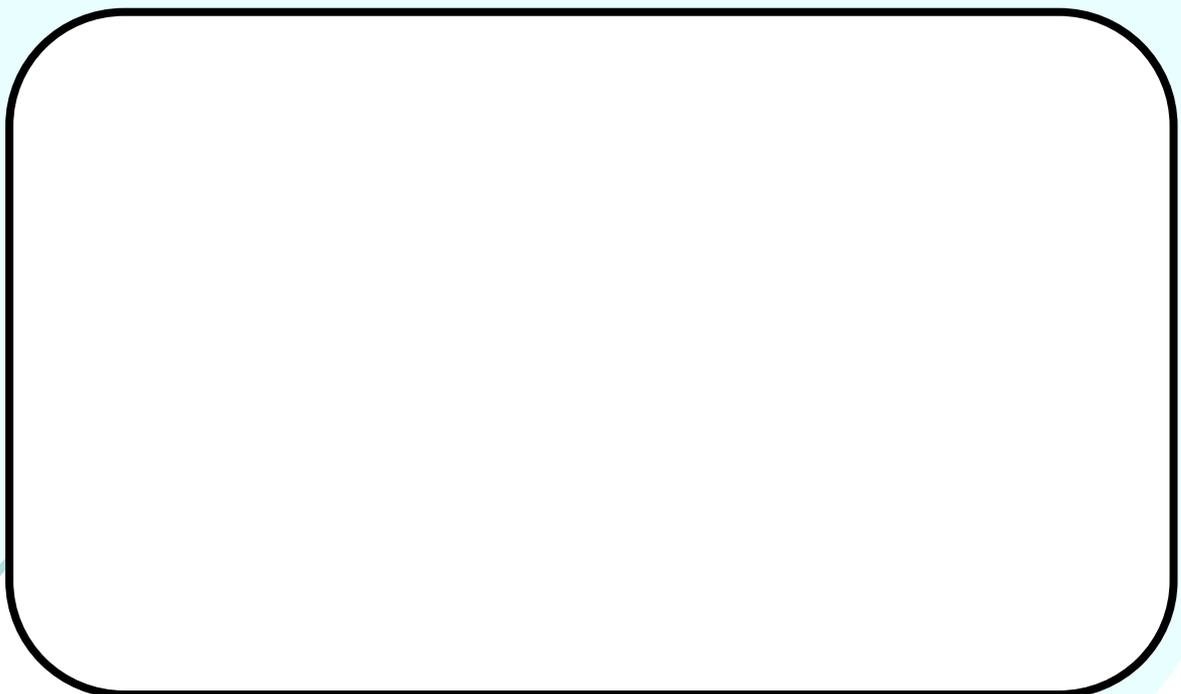
Jesus said, "In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."

**Read the Bible Story of The Lost Sheep. Discuss the characters' feelings and the importance of loving forgiveness and reconciliation.**

**Learning together:** Think about the parable that you have heard today. Discuss a time when you, or someone/something important to you, were lost.

4. How did everyone feel?
5. What was done to find the lost person/pet/item?
6. Talk about how everyone felt when the search was over.
7. If possible, explore media for current positive news story about someone/something lost which is found.

Draw a picture or paste a photograph of a time when someone or something was found.





# Prayer time at Home

## Praying together

Light your prayer candle

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

God our Father, your Son Jesus taught us that you rejoice and celebrate when someone turns back to you. When I lose my way like the lost sheep, help me to turn back and say sorry. Amen

### Act Of Sorrow

**Oh my God, thank you for loving me,  
I am sorry for all of my sins, for not loving  
others and for not loving you,  
help me to live like  
Jesus and not sin again.  
Amen**

**In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

### Hymn

Sing-along with your child any forgiveness hymns learned in school (see school session)



### When at Mass

Highlight to your child the following prayers and responses

Before Mass begins,  
Confiteor

During Eucharistic prayer, 'Lord I am not worthy' and the Our Father

# 5: Come down Zacchaeus

## **For Parents/Godparents**

In the classroom the children will be listening to a story from scripture about a man called Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a man who hadn't been fair and decent to others but when he met Jesus he truly wanted to change and make amends for what he had done. Jesus welcomed him with open arms, just as he welcomes us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sometimes we don't think about how our behaviour affects those around us. In this section, we will be reflecting on the fact that God always wants us to think about how we are behaving and He is always glad when we want to change for the better.

## **Putting our Faith into action**

You can help your child/God-child by discussing the story of Zacchaeus. Perhaps you could help your child to think about how Zacchaeus felt when Jesus welcomed him and wanted to come to his house. Another discussion which is pertinent would be the importance of making amends and truly trying to change your ways when you know you have not done the right thing. You could also briefly touch on examples of making amends in you and your child's own situation.



# At School

## Scripture Reading:

Luke 19: 1-10

Jesus meets Zacchaeus

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**Read the Bible Story of Zacchaeus.  
Talk about the scripture with a partner**

- What was Zacchaeus like before he heard Jesus talk to the people?
- How do you know Zacchaeus really wanted to hear Jesus?
- How did Jesus' teaching make Zacchaeus feel? What did it make him want to do?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted to go with Zacchaeus to his home?
- What was Jesus telling us about God's love in this event?

(see [www.rcdom.org.uk/first-reconciliation-preparation](http://www.rcdom.org.uk/first-reconciliation-preparation) for a link to BBC Learning Zone cartoon retelling of the meeting of Jesus with Zacchaeus)

Make a cartoon strip to share the story of Zacchaeus with others.  
Use speech bubbles to write what you think Jesus and Zacchaeus might have said.

1. Zacchaeus climbed the tree.

2. Jesus saw Zacchaeus.

3. Zacchaeus wanted to change.

4. Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house.

# At Home 5



**Learning Together:** Read the story of Zacchaeus together with your child/Godchild. Perhaps you could talk about why Zacchaeus wanted to change and how it made him feel when Jesus wanted to come with him to his home.

## Scripture Reading: Luke 19: 1-10

### Zacchaeus wants to change

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance: he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man.

He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd.

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.'

And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully.

They all complained when they saw what was happening.

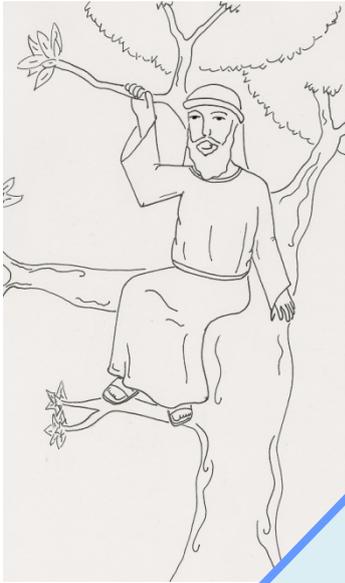
'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said.

But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord,

'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.'

And Jesus said to him,

'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'



After reading the story of Zacchaeus , discuss together something Zacchaeus did which was wrong and how he made it right. Then talk about a time you did something wrong and how you could make it right.

**For the child:**

Write or draw about this below

<p><b><u>Zacchaeus</u></b> Doing the wrong thing</p>	<p><b><u>Zacchaeus</u></b> Doing the right thing</p>
<p><b><u>Me</u></b> Doing the wrong thing</p>	<p><b><u>Me</u></b> Doing the right thing</p>



# Prayer time at Home



## Praying Together

As we light the candle we know that God is with us.  
Close your eyes...still yourself...Concentrate on the stillness around you...

Imagine you are in the tree like Zacchaeus was...you hear Jesus speak....You think about how you haven't always been fair to those around you...Jesus speaks to you...He smiles at you as He speaks...He knows you want to change ...Jesus takes you by the hand and He tells you how much God loves you...

Think for a moment about how you feel...  
You can talk to Jesus about how you feel...  
Open your eyes and stretch. After a few moments, say together:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

Jesus takes us by the hand when we ask him to help us to change. He tells us, "Today Salvation has come to this house."

**O my God, I thank you for loving me.  
I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others, and not loving you.  
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen**

**In the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of  
the Holy Spirit  
Amen.**



## 6: Mending Relationships

### **For Parents/Godparents**

In the classroom the children are discussing what it means to turn away from God (sin) and how they can mend the relationship with God and also other people who they may have hurt. They have been reflecting on their own lives and examining their conscience as well as listening to various bible stories - **The Loving Father and the Two Sons** and **Zacchaeus** - that show people who have turned away from God and how God always loves them and welcomes them back.

### **Putting our Faith into action**

You can help your child/ Godchild by discussing times when they and/or you have done something wrong, how this made everyone involved feel and how they resolved the situation. Remind them that no matter what they do wrong that you and God will always love them and will forgive them.

# At School

We will learn about:-

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**Complete the table below by drawing and/ or writing.**

E.g. I turned away from God when I left my friend out of my game and she began to cry.

I mended the relationship when I said sorry and asked my friend if they wanted to play.

I turned away from God when I...

I mended the relationship when I...

	
<b>Mending Relationships</b>	
	



## At Home 6

Read the story of **The Loving Father and the Two Sons** (Luke 15:11-32) and reread the story of **Zacchaeus** (from Section 5) to your child.



### The Loving Father and the Two Sons

Jesus also told them another story: Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Give me my share of the property."

So the father divided his property between his two sons. Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat. He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating, but no one gave him a thing. Finally, he came to his senses and said, "My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am, starving to death! I will go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.'" The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son." But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate.



## At Home 6 (Cont)

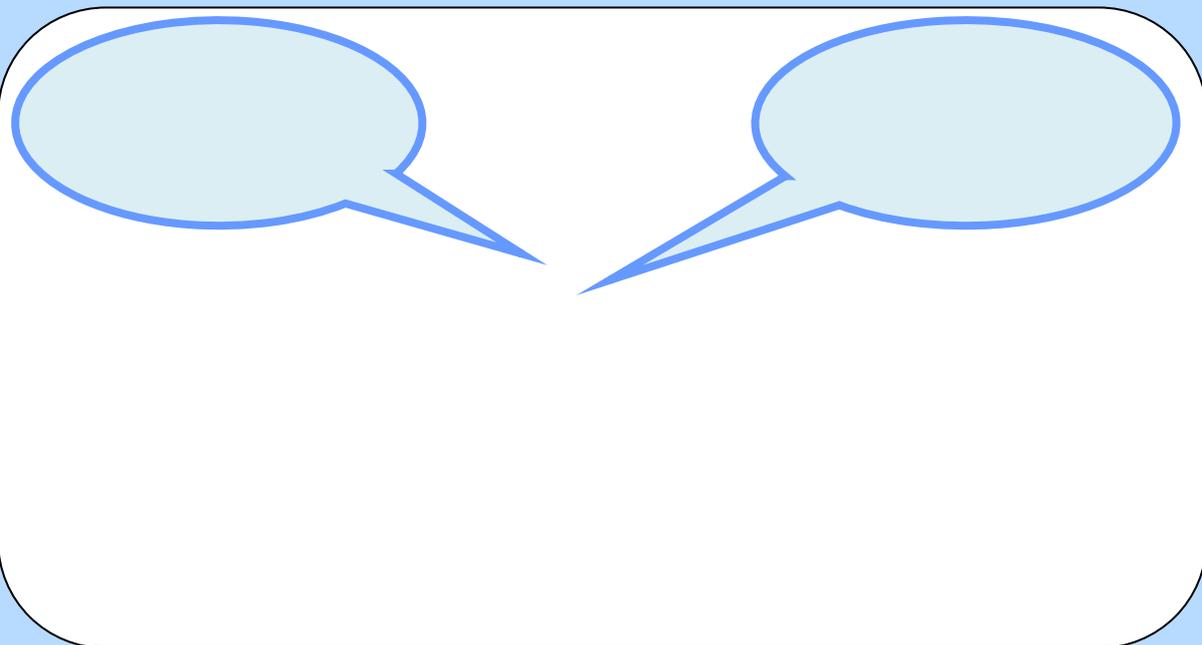
In the story of **The Loving Father and the Two Sons** list 2 ways the son turned away from the Loving Father.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

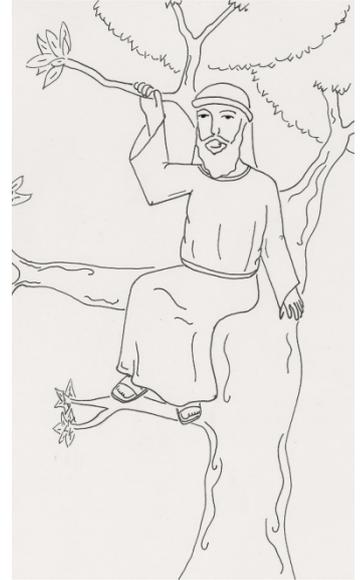
2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Learning together:** Discuss what the Father did to show he had forgiven his son.

Think about a time when you turned away from God at home. Draw a picture of when your Mum/ Dad/ brother/ sister/ grandparent/ godparent forgave you. You write what you said in a speech bubble and get the person who forgave you to write what they said inside the other one.



## At Home 6 (Cont)



In the story of Zacchaeus, Jesus told Zacchaeus how to live in his image. Discuss how Zacchaeus changed.

Ask your parent/ godparent to tell you about a time when you lived in the image of Jesus.

Get them to tell you what you did and how it made them feel.

**Draw what you did.**

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing. It is outlined in black and set against a light blue background.

**Remember** God is always waiting and ready to forgive us if we turn away from him, like Jesus forgave Zacchaeus and the Loving Father watched and waited every day for his son to come back.

Colour the important words in bright colours.

Forgiveness

*Good choices*

Reconciliation



# Prayer time at Home



## Praying Together

As we light the candle we know that God is with us.

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Thank you, God, for always loving me.  
Thank you, God, for all my family who love me.**

*Think about a time when you turned away from God, by being angry,  
selfish, greedy, cheeky or hurtful to another person.  
Say sorry in your head to the person you upset and ask  
them to forgive you.*

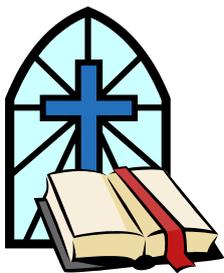
**Thank you, God, for always being ready to forgive me.**

*Pray the Act of Sorrow together.*

**Oh my God, I thank you for loving me.  
I am sorry for all of my sins,  
For not loving others and for not loving you,  
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again  
Amen.**

**Hymn  
'God Forgave My Sin'**

**In the name of the  
Father and of the  
Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.  
Amen**



# 7: The Rite of Reconciliation

## **For Parents/Godparents:**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is given to all of us through the love of Jesus and the Church. Like the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of Reconciliation indicates a new beginning in our relationship with God. Forgiveness and penance brings us closer together as part of God's loving family. Your child understands that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated throughout our lives. Through school, home and personal preparation your child is almost ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

## **Putting our Faith into Action:**

Throughout this preparation your child has explored God's eternal love and continues to develop his/her understanding that the key message for this Sacrament is about God's love and mercy and not solely about sin. They have been learning about the gift of forgiveness through parables and understand that when we are truly sorry, God will always forgive us.

In this session your child is encouraged to interview someone special to them who has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

After your child has received the Sacrament for the first time they are invited to share their Prayer of Thanksgiving with all members of the family.



# At School

We will learn about

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Discuss, draw and label the important parts of your school parish Church

Parts to draw and label:

Altar

Paschal Candle

Baptismal Font

Pulpit

Pews

Confessional Box

Find out the times when you can go to Confession at your parish.



# At Home 7

## Learning together

Interview someone special to you (a parent, godparent, grandparent or a friend) who has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Talk to them about their experience and tell them about your preparation for the Sacrament.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

When and where did you first receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the name of the Priest?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you feel as you prepared for this Sacrament?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you describe how you felt after you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

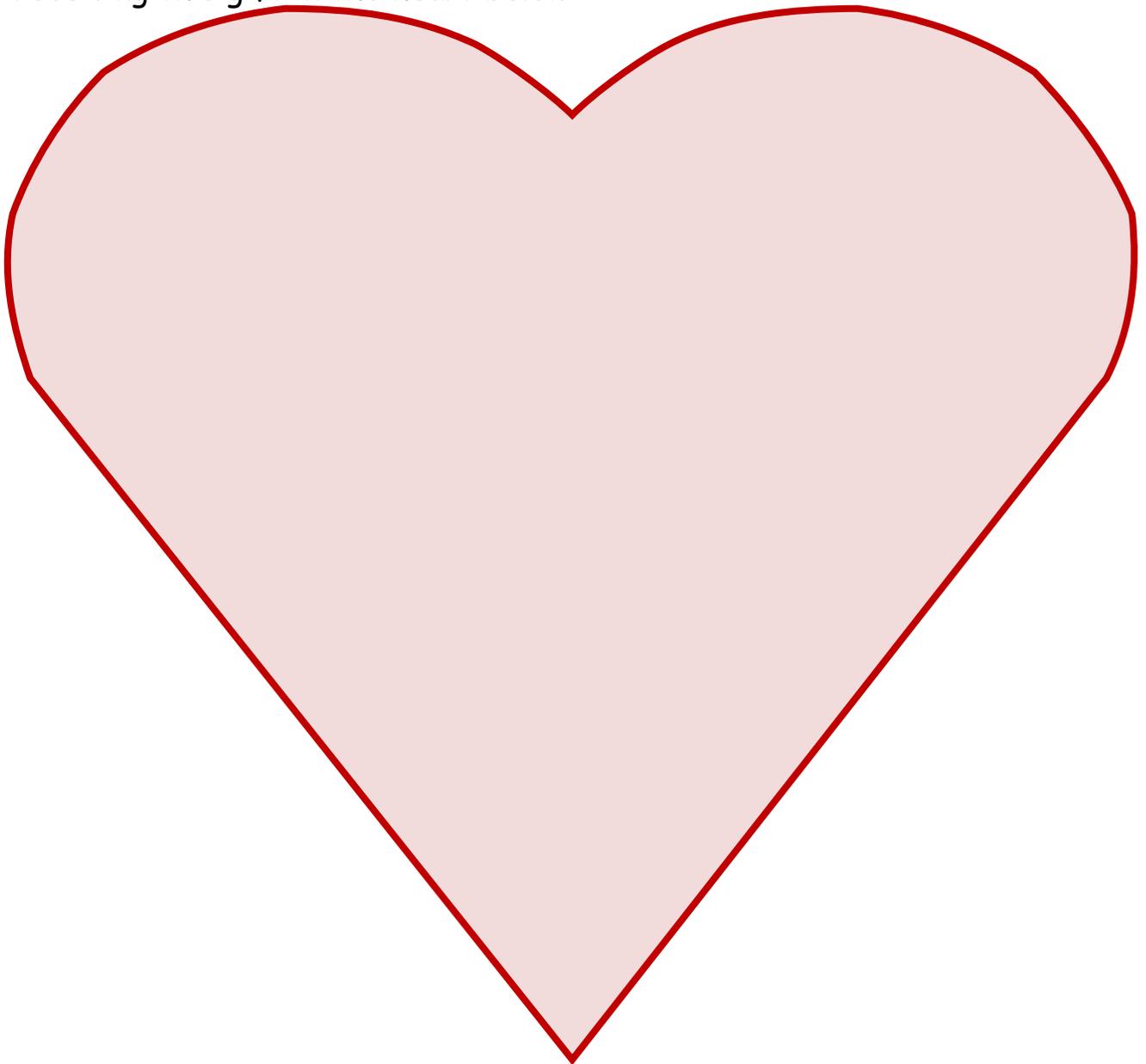


# Prayer time in School

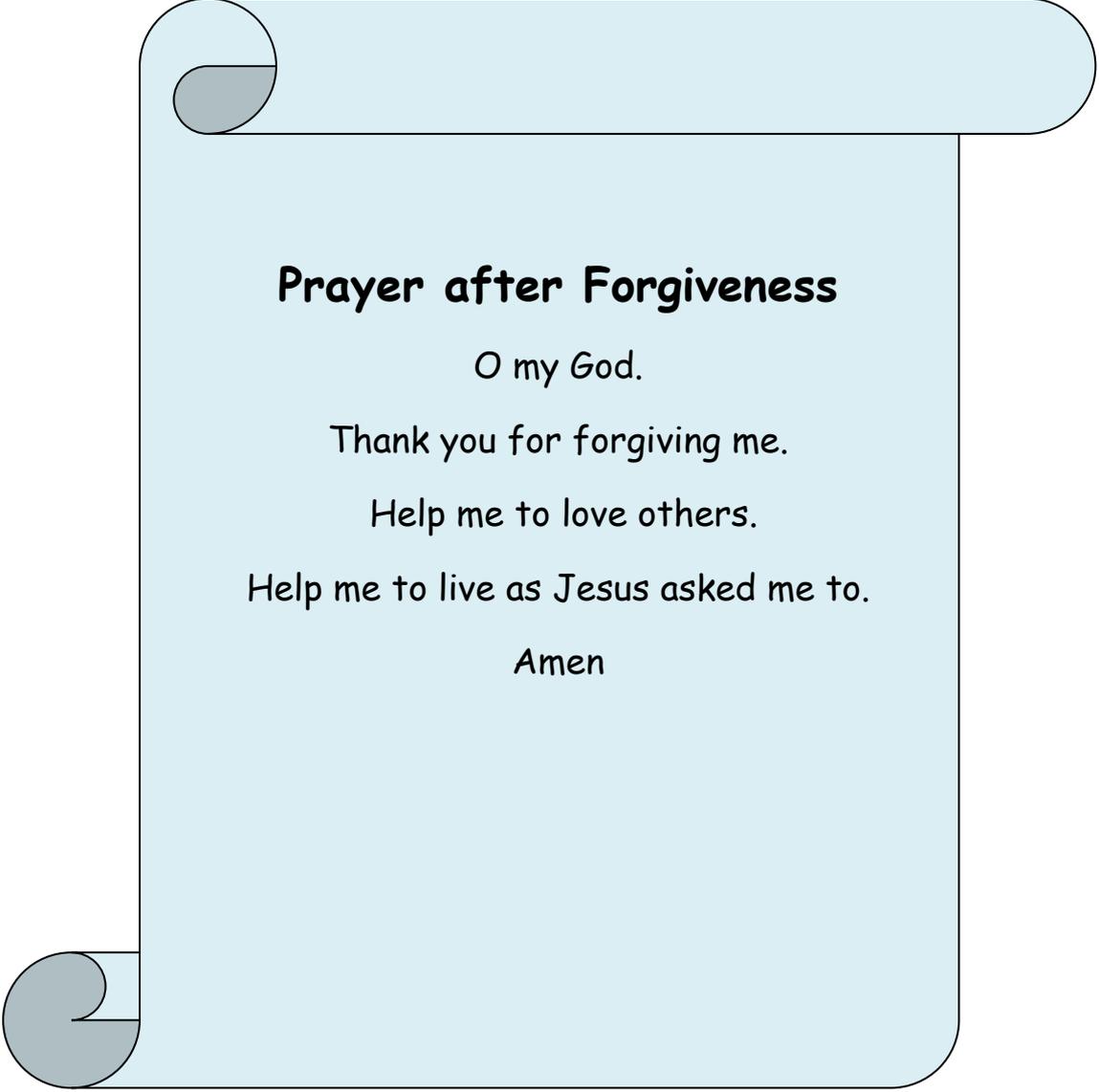


**In school**, think about the Sacrament you have just received. Discuss with your partner how you felt after receiving God's forgiveness.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you received the grace of forgiveness from God. Write a personal prayer of thanks to God for receiving this gift in the heart below:



Share your prayer with your family.



**Prayer after Forgiveness**

*O my God.*

Thank you for forgiving me.

Help me to love others.

Help me to live as Jesus asked me to.

Amen

