**Primary Reconciliation Prayer Service**

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**Greeting:**

Welcome everyone. Today we come together to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is a sacrament of healing and highlights the merciful nature of God. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we ask God’s forgiveness for the times we have knowingly done something which is wrong, hurtful or harmful. With God’s help we can learn how to do better and live peacefully with others.

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God,

You sent us Jesus your Son to show how great your love and care is for each one of us.

On this day give us the courage to face the things we have done that separate us from your friendship. Help us to welcome your love and forgiveness once more.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**Reading:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was going through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich. Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree. When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today." Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus. Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him." Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated." Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Homily Suggestion:**

*(Led by priest or teacher)*

God loves us for who we are. God wants us to be the best we can possibly be – but being the best begins with accepting and loving ourselves just as we are, the person God has made us to be. God is always with us – always loving us and helping us again and again to let go of the things we do that hurt others. God calls us to begin again, and to try to be who God wants us to be. We can do this by showing God’s love in the world, by how we love and care for one another in our families, in our classrooms and those in our community.

**Examination of Conscience:**

*(Ask the children to close their eyes and picture themselves in the words you are going to say to them. If you find it of help, some music could be played softly in the background)*

Imagine yourself in one of your favourite places…a place where you like to be alone...maybe it’s in the countryside...or in a park...or in your favourite room in your house...picture that for a while...the different things in the place, the things you can see, the smell of the place, the sounds you can hear...relax there...have a little rest there...

Now imagine that God is in that place with you… tell God if there is anything that is getting in the way of your friendship with God...if there is anything getting in the way of your friendship with your parents, brothers, sisters, friends and other people in your life... tell God anything you really want to say sorry for...be as honest as you can... Perhaps there have been times when you have forgotten to pray to God, or times when you have not respected the people who look after you…parents, teachers, guardians… Maybe you have told lies or been untrue to others in some way… Maybe you have left out others, bullied them or ignored them… tell God what you want God’s forgiveness for…

Now hear God say to you: “I love you and I forgive you. You can begin again to show my love to others.” ...then rest for a while there with God...enjoy the feeling of friendship and the forgiveness of God. And when you are ready, quietly open your eyes and, in silence, wait for others to open their eyes too.

**Act of Contrition:**

**All**:

O my God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you,  
because you are so good,  
and with your help,  
I will try not to sin again.  
Amen

**Individual Reconciliation**