

## **PRAYER AND LITURGY**

**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

**2025**

## Policy for Prayer and Liturgy



'a small school with a big heart'

### St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to:

Guide all on their journey of faith

Nurture a love of learning

Encourage happiness, confidence and personal fulfilment

Support all in achieving their full potential

#### **School Statement on Prayer and Liturgy**

*'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them'*  
(Matthew 18:20)

#### **Prayer and Liturgy Intent for Curriculum**

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. We use The Prayer and Liturgy Directory for our guidance 'TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY'.

At the most human level, we invite all who are present at celebrations of the word and liturgy to engage in four related actions:

To be present: pupils bring themselves to the celebration, with all that is going on in their lives and in the world. Being alert to this is the first step in engaging with any form of worship.

To experience: to engage in what is happening through the senses – at the most basic, to see and to hear.

To reflect: to ask what has been experienced, and what it means to their lives.

To respond: to ask how to take forward what has been experienced into living a good life.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

We gather, using prayers or actions or music. Then, we listen to scripture, readings and / or poems. After that, we respond by doing something or saying a prayer together. Finally, we go forth by reflecting on the scripture and taking this forward into our work throughout the day. It is wonderful to see the children excited, enthusiastic and deepening their faith through prayer and liturgy. In each class, there is a prayer and liturgy book where pictures, planning templates and PowerPoints are kept as a reminder and record of the acts of worship. Each class has a 'big book' for prayer and liturgy. In year 5&6, pupils create their own reflection pages following prayer and liturgy sessions they have planned and delivered.

## **The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of our School**

We endorse the belief that Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- those from other Christian traditions – or none
- those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

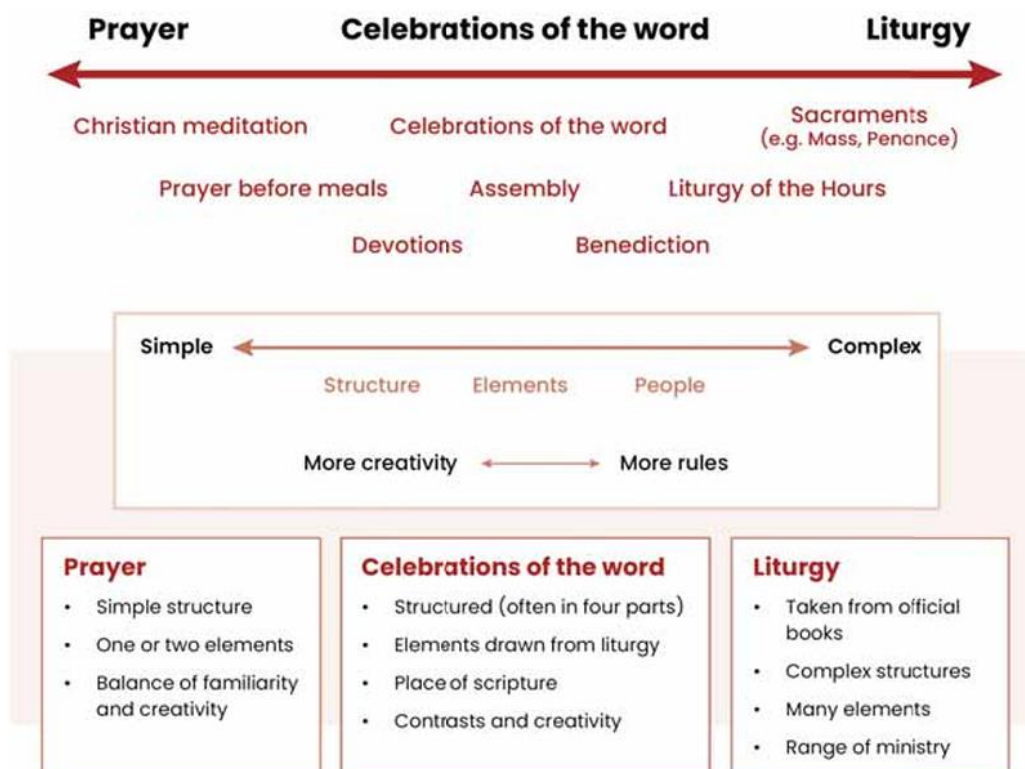
To support the development of Prayer and Liturgy at home, we send home weekly Prayer Bags, which relate to Liturgical seasons and are differentiated for year groups. 'Wednesday word' activities are also sent home weekly to enable families to reflect on the weekly Gospel story.

## The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to explore their own beliefs
- to respond to and celebrate life
- to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- to develop a common ethos and shared values
- to enrich religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully
- to take time out to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## Principles



All Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- raise our minds and hearts to God
- celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community
- be a high quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- support learners' spiritual development
- give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings, including outdoors;
- seek to involve learners at all times in preparation and leadership.

## Organisation

Children pray in different groups during the week.

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>
Class prayer and liturgy <i>Timetabled in class</i>	Class prayer and liturgy <i>Timetabled in class</i>	Whole School 2:45pm – 3:00pm	Class prayer and liturgy <i>Timetabled in class</i>	Whole school 3:00pm- 3:15pm

Prayer and Liturgy always follows the liturgical seasons.

Other times of prayer and worship in the school year include (as outlined on whole school curriculum maps) :

- • Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year
- A MONTHLY Monday whole school Mass
- Celebration of Feast Days – Mass in the church for Holy Days of obligation. Appropriate liturgies for other Feast Days.
- Reconciliation Services –in Advent and Lent
- KS2 Advent Liturgy
- Christmas and Easter Prayer Services – for the whole school
- The Way of the Cross – reflection during Lent for the whole school.
- Easter reflections presented by each class
- May Procession – for the whole school, parents and Parish
- Trips to Ladyewell
- Mass to pray especially for the Year 6 leavers

## The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the church's seasons using the diocese prayer and liturgy support leaflets, scripture and our Collective Worship scheme –

(Ten:Ten Prayer & Liturgy), Scripture is the focus in most acts of worship and we place utmost importance on our response to God's message. We explore themes throughout the year, for example Pope Francis' Encyclical, and how we can make links from these themes to scripture.

### **Classroom toolkits and planning frames**

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the planning and delivery of Prayer and Liturgy in class and Key Stage acts of worship. In Key Stage 1, pupils may assist the class teacher in selecting appropriate resources (e.g. music, artwork, sacred silence, prayers) to fit with a given theme.

The teacher selects the scripture 'Word' for the Celebration of the Word. As children progress through Key Stage 2, they take more responsibility for planning and leading class worship (such as selecting the scripture for celebrating the word). Children lead Lectio Divina and Visio Divina and they independently plan class prayer and liturgy sessions, supported by the teacher, knowing where to find the resources they need. Starting points are a theme linked to the current strand of the curriculum/or linked to the liturgical year.

### **Recording**

Prayer and Liturgy is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings and resources
- through displays, on the school website, class floor books, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Throughout the school year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This is monitored by the RE subject leader and SLT. The children evaluate their own worships.

### **Eucharist**

Children who have completed their First Holy Communion are welcomed to receive the Eucharist at Mass. Those children who have not made their First Holy Communion receive a blessing from the priest.

At **Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass and/or the
- Liturgy of the Word

At **Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety

- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

It is the responsibility of every Catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- ❖ names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- ❖ is educative
- ❖ is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:






- ❖ to raise our mind and heart to God
- ❖ to develop the school as a community of faith
- ❖ to assist learners in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- ❖ to witness to the community and the wider world

Prayer and Liturgy in our school will be:

- ❖ properly planned
- ❖ adequately resourced
- ❖ recorded
- ❖ monitored
- ❖ evaluated

in order to ensure that the Prayer and Liturgy experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

LECTIO DIVINA

<u>Theme</u>		
<p>1. <u>Gather</u></p> 	Where? Music?	Resources-what are you choosing for your table?
<p>2. <u>Listen</u> Reading the Scripture</p> 	Bible reference:	
<p>Visio Divina</p> 		
<p>3. <u>Respond</u> What does God say to me?</p>	What questions will you ask to think about scripture?	
<p>Responding through Prayer</p> 	What type of prayer will we offer God today-traditional prayer, quiet reflection or own prayer?	
<p>4. <u>Mission/go forth</u></p> 	How has this changed me today? How will I be more like Jesus?	

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Date of adoption by Governing Body: September 2025  
Renewal date: October 2026