

## PRAYER AND LITURGY

### St Bega's Catholic Primary School



'Love one another, as I have loved you'

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## Introduction

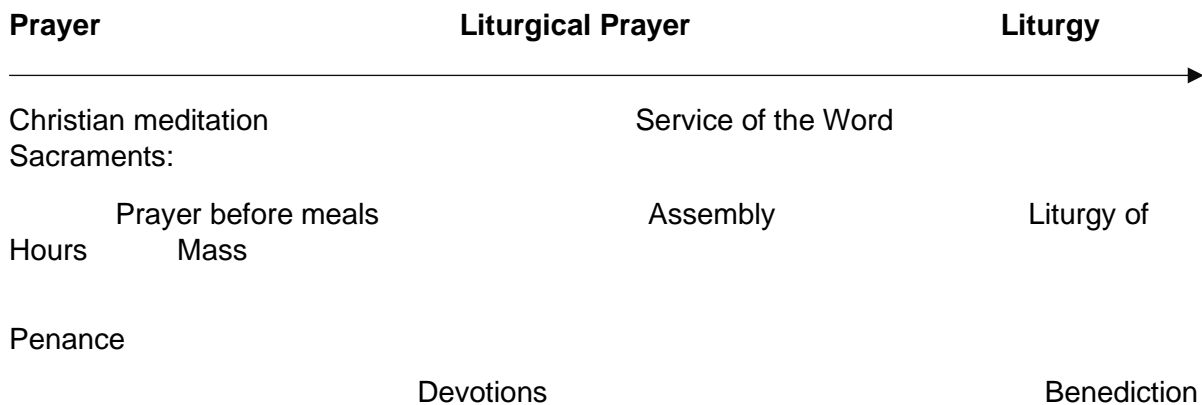
### Understanding Prayer and Liturgy

(From the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory, September 2022)

*In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration and its content.*

### Definition of Terms

*Prayer, Liturgical Prayer, and Liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g., Ascension of the Lord) at the other. Of course, there are areas of overlap between the categories.*



Prayer	Liturgical Prayer	Liturgy
Simple structure	Structured (often 4 part)	Taken from official books
One or two elements	Elements drawn from liturgy	Complex structure
Balance of familiarity & creativity	Places of Scripture	Many elements
	Contrasts and creativity	Range of ministry

*In Catholic terminology 'worship' is not generally used to name and describe a distinct type of prayer or event. Worship is about living our lives in a way that recognises that everything we have is a gift from God and that everything we do gives glory to God. That, of course, does include prayer but the scope is broader. With that understanding of worship it will be seen that the purpose of education in a Catholic school is to know and love Christ and to open the vision and imagination of all pupils to the wonder of living in God's world, and the responsibilities that follow from this.*

Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 there is a statutory duty to inspect and report on denominational education (that is religious education) and collective worship in schools designated as having a religious character. For this reason, the term 'Collective Worship' has been kept as the headline judgement by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate but throughout the framework it is referred to as prayer and liturgy. This model policy addresses the shift in vocabulary and is an interim response to the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory. When the Directory is published it will contain a model policy which the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle will adapt for schools.

## ***St Bega's Catholic Primary School Prayer and Liturgy Policy***

### **Vision & Mission Statement**

Our Catholic ethos and support for one another as a family of schools drives all that we do. Our mission is guided by a collective culture and vision where:

**'Our schools are places of excellence –providing service and witness to children, their families and the wider Catholic community, adding value as a family of schools and enriching the learning and experience of all our young people, so they may achieve their full potential.'**

### **The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy**

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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'<sup>1</sup>

### **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily 'act of worship' offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between 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. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 'Collective Worship'. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

### **The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St Bega's Catholic Primary School**

Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

## **The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy**

Prayer and liturgy in St Bega's Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 acts of prayer in St Bega's Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.<sup>2</sup> Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

## **Planning, content and celebration**

Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day. Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations. A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

- *In classes, children pray daily first thing in the morning, to offer their day to God, before lunchtime and at the end of the day to thank God for their day and to ask for his help and protection.*
- *In Foundation Stage prayers are also said before snack time.*
- *Additional to this, the school gathers throughout the week in different groups to pray together.*
- *This is led by members of staff and children are given the opportunity to contribute in various ways when appropriate, e.g. reading, artwork*
- *Mass is scheduled to take place in school half-termly.*
- *On days when the children have not gathered together across classes or key stages, a longer prayer session will take place in class. This includes a variety of prayer styles led by an adult and children are invited to respond and contribute in various ways.*
- *Liturgies also take place for Harvest Festival, Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Memorial services and the May Procession.*

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

The Timetable of Prayer and Liturgy is as below:

<i>Holy Mass</i>	<i>Half termly</i>
<i>Whole School Celebration of the Word</i>	<i>Weekly</i>
<i>Key Stage Liturgical Prayer</i>	<i>Weekly</i>
<i>Class Celebration of the Word</i>	<i>Weekly - these are both child-led and adult-led where appropriate</i>
<i>Examen</i>	<i>Weekly</i>
<i>Hymn practice</i>	<i>Weekly</i>

### Leading Prayer and Liturgy

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead whole school prayer and liturgy. *The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, along with other members of teaching staff, take turns to lead key stage Liturgical Prayer.* The class teacher will lead class prayer and liturgy. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to their age.

### Recording

*Prayer and liturgy is recorded in several ways. Whole school and KS2 prayer and liturgy is saved on the school system. Children are supported to learn the process of planning a Liturgical Prayer and this is recorded in a file. Class Liturgical Prayer is recorded in photographs which are shared on the parent communication platform.*

### Monitoring and Evaluation

*The RE Coordinator monitors Liturgical Prayer using the Trust proforma, which is attached below.*

#### BISHOP HOGARTH CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST MONITORING OF PRAYER AND LITURGY

Form/ Class:	
Date:	
Member of Staff Leader/ Facilitating	
Theme:	
<b>Provision</b> Prompts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> attention to mood &amp; setting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> theme/message clear &amp; appropriate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> theme message appropriate for time of liturgical year</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> use of Scripture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> opportunities for pupils to lead &amp; participate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> opportunities for spiritual growth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> quiet reflection</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> spontaneous prayer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> traditional prayer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> appropriate music</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> use of art/artefacts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> standard of organisation</li> </ul>	<b>Evaluation of evidence</b>
<b>Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prompts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> participation in prayer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> engaged</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> respect</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> awe and wonder</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> interest &amp; concentration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> behaviour</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> developing a sense of belonging</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> students undertake ministries with confidence</li> </ul>	

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

### Resources

*Each class prayer focus area includes a list of non-negotiable resources. These include:*

*A candle, a Bible, a statue of Our Lady, Rosary beads, a crucifix and fabric in the current colour to reflect the season of the Liturgical calendar. Additional resources are sorted into boxes, which the children use with support from an adult.*

### **The learning environment**

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'<sup>3</sup>

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

The Catholicity permeates in all physical areas of the school. Displays in the hall always relate to our Catholic Faith. The inner entrance display boards reflect the unique Catholic nature of St Bega's whilst also reflect its unique context. They are monitored carefully and are always of high quality.

### **Other opportunities**

*Children are invited to attend mass weekly in any church throughout the Parish of the Holy Family, Hartlepool.*

### **Retreats**

*Youth Village Festival is held annually for Y6 and Y5 children*

When available, we will also access mini retreats for younger children from year 4 upwards either at the youth village or Osmotherly priory.

### **Eucharist**

*Children in years 4,5 and 6 are invited to participate in the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in a programme shared with other schools in the parish.*

### **Role of Trust Head of Catholic Life**

The Trust Head of Catholic Life acts as a resource to support to Lay Chaplains and Chaplaincy Teams. Their role is to provide:

- Training and support
- Point of contact
- Identify and meet the training needs of those involved in chaplaincy in our schools
- Oversee spirituality timetables
- Assistance with sacred spaces
- Opportunities to meet and discuss ideas and problem-solve together
- Assistance with the planning and preparation of key Liturgical celebrations including major feasts and seasons across sectors
- Resources for websites

The Trust Head of Catholic Life will work with school Chaplains and those with responsibility for co-ordinating collective worship to develop ideas to:

- Make prayer engaging and meaningful
- Increase involvement of our young people in the prayer life of their school
- Develop whole Trust MAT spirituality events including retreats and liturgies

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<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

## **The Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy**

*The Headteacher and RE Coordinator take joint responsibility for Prayer and Liturgy.*

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator 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.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Role of the Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy**

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for prayer times
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community

- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

### **Professional development/Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

### **Resources**

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently