

## Prayer and Liturgy Summer term 2023



Please see the attached document below from the diocese – Support for planning Prayer and Liturgy. Where there are some examples, I have pasted the box into the correct week but please see below for a larger copy.

Date	Theme	EYFS/KS1 worship led by	KS2 worship led by	Value for the month (display in class)	In class worship themes												
26 <sup>th</sup> April	<p><b>The Feast of St Mark, The Evangelist - 25<sup>th</sup> April (Mark 16 :15-20)</b></p> <table><thead><tr><th colspan="3">April</th></tr><tr><th>Celebration and Scripture</th><th>Response</th><th>Send</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>25<sup>th</sup> The feast of St Mark, the Evangelist Mark 16:15-20 Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. 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If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."</td><td>St George was prepared to stand up for his beliefs. People who die for their religious beliefs are called martyrs. God is not asking us to die today for what we believe, but all over the world people are dying rather than give up their faith. What would you be prepared to stand up for? Write it on the back of a flag of St George. Say a prayer for people in the world who suffer because of their faith, for what they believe or for what they hold most important to them.</td><td>Take your flag home. Put it somewhere where you can be reminded of what you want to stand up for. 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	<p><b>4th The English Martyrs</b> Psalm 15: 1-2, 5, 7-11 <b>1 Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.</b> <b>I say to the Lord: 'You are my God; O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.</b> <b>2 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart: I keep the Lord ever in my sight; since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.</b> <b>3 You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.</b></p> <p>Find out the names of the English martyrs. You will find a list at: <a href="#">Forty Martyrs of England and Wales - Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (ropos.org.uk)</a> It would be good to focus on those who are associated with our Diocese. Choose some or all of the names on the list. Read their names out as a litany. For example: <b>'Blessed Christopher Robinson...'</b> <b>'Pray for us.'</b> <b>'St Edmund Arrowsmith...'</b> <b>'Pray for us.'</b> As you do this, pray that you will be strong like these men and women in standing up for what is right.</p> <p>Finish your worship by singing or listening to the hymn: 'Do not be afraid'. Remember that God is always with you through difficult times. If you want to follow up more about the English Martyrs you could look at: <a href="#">Forty-Martyrs-Votive-Mass-pack.pdf (seundscathedral.uk)</a></p>				
10 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>SATS WEEK LITURGY IN CLASS</b></p> <p><b>Our Lady of Fatima</b></p>			Forgiveness and Mercy	Vocation
17 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>Ascension Thursday- 18<sup>th</sup> May (Luke 24:50-53)</b></p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup> Ascension Thursday</b> Lk 24:50-53 Then (Jesus) led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.</p> <p>Even though Jesus has ascended to heaven and we cannot see him, he is still with us, hears us and helps us. Take a circle shaped into a spiral. Think about things you would like to pray to Jesus about- help, thanks, blessings for others etc and write or draw them inside the spiral. After worship cut round the spiral and display somewhere where it will turn gently. This will remind you of our thanks ascending to God, and of Jesus ascending to his Father.</p> <p>Take another blank spiral home with you. Ask others at home to add their own prayers to the spiral. Display it somewhere to remind everyone of Jesus listening to all of our prayers.</p> <p>Christian Aid week (14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May) International Day of Families -15<sup>th</sup> May</p>	Miss Harrison	Miss Seefus	Forgiveness and Mercy	Family
24 <sup>th</sup> May	<p><b>Pentecost Sunday - 28<sup>th</sup> May (Acts 2:1-8-12)</b></p> <p><b>28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday</b> Acts 2:1-8,12 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?... And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'</p> <p>Try entering into the scene through a form of imaginative contemplation. You might want to have some quiet music playing. Read slowly with plenty of pauses. Don't encourage responses at this point.</p> <p>Imagine you were in Jerusalem that day... Where are you? Are you in the room with the apostles or outside in the marketplace...? What do you hear? What can you see? What do you think is happening...? Watch the apostles as they rush outside... What are they saying...? What are you saying...? Listen whilst Peter tells everyone that this is the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus has promised... He tells you all to change your ways and to be baptised in the name of Jesus... What do you do...? Leave this place now and go back to your home... What will you tell them about what you have heard and seen...? This is the part when you can take responses from the children.</p> <p>Sing or listen to a hymn to the Holy Spirit such as: The Spirit lives to set us free Breathe on me breath of God Spirit of the living God, fill afresh on me.</p> <p>End with a prayer to the Holy Spirit such as: <b>Come Holy Spirit...</b> bring me today... love, joy and peace... in all that I say. <b>Come Holy Spirit...</b> help me be like you... showing kindness and goodness in all that I do. <b>Come Holy Spirit</b> Please Bless my Family and Friends... In all that we do! And bless the many people... that might not know and love you. Amen <b>Pray to The Holy Spirit   Holy Spirit Prayers (goodhouseofprayers.com)</b></p> <p>29th St Peter and St Paul Mission Together has lots of information for this feast day. It can be found and downloaded at: <a href="#">Feast days - Mission Together</a></p>	Mrs Holt	Mrs Bailey	Forgiveness and Mercy	Integrity
7 <sup>th</sup> June	<p><b>Corpus Christ - 8<sup>th</sup> June (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)</b></p> <p><b>World Environment Day - 5<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>World Oceans Day - 8<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>	Mrs Sergeant	Mr Birchall	Purity and Holiness	Talent
14 <sup>th</sup> June	<p><b>Truth</b></p> <p><b>"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)</b></p>	Mrs Speight	Mrs Milne	Purity and Holiness	Truth
21 <sup>st</sup> June	<b>Community</b>	Miss Harrison	Miss Martin	Purity and Holiness	Community
28 <sup>th</sup> June	<p><b>Feast of St Peter and St Paul - 29<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <p><b>Mission Together has an act of worship for this feast day.</b></p>	Mrs Holt	Miss Seefus	Purity and Holiness	Mission
5 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>St Thomas the Apostle of India - 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Miss Sergeant	Mrs Bailey	Tolerance and Peace	Aspiration
12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>St Benedict Patron of Europe (Matthew 19:27-29)</b>	Mrs Speight	Mr Birchall	Tolerance and Peace	

Celebration and Scripture	Response	Send
<b>11th St Benedict, patron of Europe</b> Mt 19:27-29 <i>Peter said to Jesus, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."</i>	St Benedict brought peace and unity to millions of people in Europe through his founding of monasteries.  <b>It is likely that there are prayers and activities that schools are using given the situation in Ukraine and beyond.</b> Try looking on websites such as: <a href="http://www.cafod.org.uk">Ukraine prayers of intercession (cafod.org.uk)</a>  <a href="http://www.acnuk.org">Aid to the Church in Need   Holy Hour for Ukraine (acnuk.org)</a>  You might use the above as a basis of planning a Holy Hour or Eucharistic Adoration for peace.	Say a <i>Hail Mary</i> together asking for peace and unity, especially between all the peoples of Europe. Sing or listen to a hymn for peace such as:  <i>Peace, perfect peace</i>  <i>Make me a channel of your peace</i>  <i>Longing for light, we wait in darkness</i>

#### Useful resources

Mission Together: [www.missiontogether.org.uk](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk)

Spirit of the Season: [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS)

Church House Publishing: [www.chpublishing.co.uk/schools](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/schools)

CAFOD Resources: [www.cafod.org/primary](http://www.cafod.org/primary)

CAFOD Resources: [www.cafod.org/secondary](http://www.cafod.org/secondary)

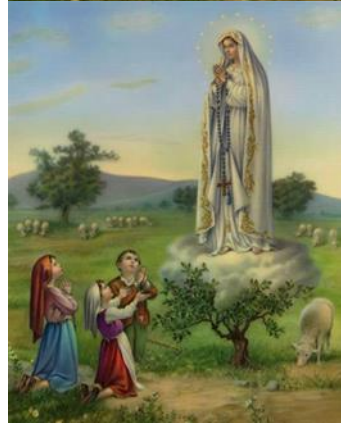
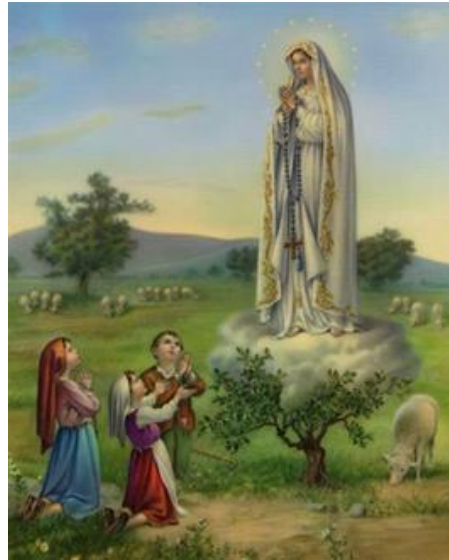
The Bishops of England and Wales Liturgy office: [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk)

Culham Institute: [www.culham.ac.uk/cw/assemblies](http://www.culham.ac.uk/cw/assemblies)



# Prayer and Liturgy

Support for planning in  
primary schools



The purpose of this document is to give schools **some** practical examples of how prayer and liturgy can be developed in schools using the pattern of the Liturgical Year as a structure. The new Prayer and Liturgy Directory (P&LD) is still in draft form but it uses the term *Liturgical Prayer* to describe the daily acts of worship we share in our classrooms or a bigger group.

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*The fundamental structure that recurs across prayer and liturgy is one of call and response: God speaks to his people in his Word (the Scriptures), and they respond. Their response may take many different forms - it could be praise, thanksgiving, or acknowledgement of the need to change.*

*However, the basic pattern holds; it is God who takes the initiative and who speaks, and we who listen and respond. In the liturgy this pattern is frequently expanded into longer structures by the addition of opening and closing sections. This creates a four-part structure, which can be expressed:*

- *Gather*
- *Word or Listen*
- *Response*
- *Send*

*The beginning and end show that this prayer does not take place in a vacuum. We need to Gather to establish who we are as a praying community and to recognise that it is God who has called us together. We need to be Sent so that, transformed by what we have heard and done, we can make a difference in the world. This four-part pattern is very flexible. Each part can be simple or elaborate.*

*P&LD (initial draft January 2022) pg 34*

- ❖ **Gather:** consider how to begin, to create a receptive atmosphere for example with a bell, quiet music, a hymn. Begin with the Sign of the Cross and light a candle. Introduce the theme of the worship
- ❖ **Word/Listen:** This is where the reading from Scripture comes and is central to the prayer and liturgy. The Scripture used in here is from the New Revised Standard Version (Catholic edition) but schools are free to use whatever version they feel is appropriate. Remember it is important that children get used to hearing the Word of God proclaimed from Scripture, but to have real meaning for them it is sometimes necessary to adapt or to use simpler versions for younger children.
- ❖ **Response:** This is the chance to reflect on what we have heard. If listening to the Word of God does not have an impact on us and change us in some way, even if a very small way, then we have wasted a God-given opportunity. I have tried to keep the activities simple so that this section does not belong overlong or too complicated!
- ❖ **Send** Some examples given can be used to bring the worship to a conclusion, others are better used as a follow up activity throughout the following day or week. I call these **'takeaways'**. I have found that trying to build 'activities' into the act of worship can sometimes become distracting and over complicated to organise! Conclude the worship with the Sign of the Cross.

Increasingly our school communities include catholic children and their families from countries outside the UK. Each month there is a suggestion for schools to join a distinctive celebration and feast of our catholic brothers and sisters as well as continuing to pray for the family of schools within our Diocese of Lancaster.

It is hoped that the support in this booklet will give schools confidence and opportunity to further enrich the prayer and liturgy life of their schools.

Margaret Wright.

*The purpose of this booklet is to provide support for Prayer and Liturgy for schools within the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service. It remains the intellectual property of the Education Service and teachers are respectfully requested to use it only within their schools and not to share through any third party platforms or with those working outside the Diocese without seeking the prior consent of the principal author, Margaret Wright*  
*Thank You*

**April**

The month of April is dedicated to The Holy Spirit. April falls during the Easter season which is represented by the liturgical colour white — the colour of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence. The Gospels this month focus on discipleship.

#### School Feast Days in April

Please pray for the following schools whose feast days are in April:

*16<sup>th</sup> April St Bernadette's, Bispham and St Bernadette's, Lancaster*

*29<sup>th</sup> April St Catherine's, Penrith*

## Celebrating around the World in April

26<sup>th</sup> April

### The Feast of St George England

St George never came to England and he never killed a dragon! Nevertheless the story of the life of St George and the legend surrounding him can make for a great feast day celebration. You can find out about St George on two websites below. He is also celebrated in a number of other countries.

[The Feast Day of St George and the Pope's Name Day - Vatican News](#)

[St. George - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

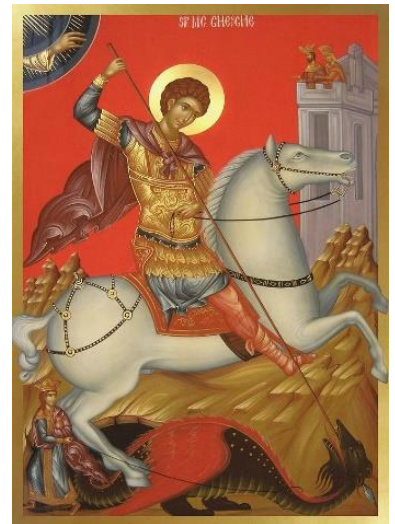
Use the story of St George to promote the values of tolerance and acceptance by sharing the real history of the man, explaining that it is important to respect and tolerate other people's ideas, beliefs and religions, even if they are different from your own.

You could create a map or display showing where George was born (Turkey), where he lived in Palestine as a Roman tribune, and where he is buried in the city of Lod in Israel. You could also then link this to some of the countries that have St George as their patron saint to show how far his fame has reached.

You might want to make dragons, flags or some St George's Cross baking. But try to link these to the actual life of the saint and the example they gave us.

A fun story to read with children is *The Reluctant Dragon* by Kenneth Graham ( who also wrote *The Wind in the Willows*) Disney also turned it into a short animation!

There are suggestions for a Prayer and Liturgy to celebrate the feast day in the table on page 4.



April		
Celebration and Scripture	Response	Send
<p>25<sup>th</sup> The feast of St Mark, the Evangelist  <a href="#">Mark 16:15-20</a>  <i>Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."</i>  <i>Then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.</i></p>	<p>This reading comes right at the end of Mark's Gospel. He is telling them to go out and to spread the Good News.  The apostles then go out and do as Jesus had commanded them. He is telling them that they might face many dangers but that they will be safe in God's hands.</p> <p>St Mark is often shown with a winged Lion. Find an image such as this one: <a href="#">St Mark Mosaic   "O God, who raised up Saint Mark, your Evan...   Flickr</a>  The lion symbolizes the resurrection of Christ the King. We look upon the lion as the king of beasts and as courageous. As Christians we too are called upon to be courageous and to spread the good news of Christ. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection, looking at the image and thinking how we can spread the good news and asking God for the courage to do this.</p>	<p>Sing an appropriate hymn such as:  <i>Share the Light of Jesus</i>: Bernadette Farrell</p> <p><i>Follow me, follow me</i>: Michael Cockett</p> <p><i>We come to share our story</i>: David Haas</p> <p><i>We gather together as brothers and sisters</i>: Willard Jabusch</p>
<p>26<sup>th</sup> The feast of St George  <a href="#">Jn 15:18-21</a>  Jesus said:  <i>"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.' If they</i></p>	<p>St George was prepared to stand up for his beliefs. People who die for their religious beliefs are called martyrs.  God is not asking us to die today for what we believe, but all over the world people are dying rather than give up their faith. What would you be prepared to stand up for?</p>	<p>Take your flag home. Put it somewhere where you can be reminded of what you want to stand up for. Share this message with people at home.</p>

<i>persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.</i>	Write it on the back of a flag of St George. Say a prayer for people in the world who suffer because of their faith, for what they believe or for what they hold most important to them.	
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## May

The month of May is dedicated to **Our Blessed Lady, Mary**. Thirty days of devotion to Mary goes back to medieval times. It is traditional to crown statues of Mary with flowers, to hold processions and to say the Rosary. We are in the Easter season until Pentecost and so the liturgical colour remains white.

### School Feast Days in May

*1<sup>st</sup> May St Joseph the Worker – Another feast day for all our St Joseph schools*

*3<sup>rd</sup> May Ss Philip & James - St James' Millom*

*4<sup>th</sup> May English Martyrs, Preston*

*25<sup>th</sup> May St Bede's Catholic High School, Lytham. St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Carlisle*

*Throughout the month of May, pray for all our schools named after Mary – St Mary and Our Lady.*

## Celebrating around the World in May

**13<sup>th</sup> May**

### The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima Portugal

The story of Our Lady of Fatima is probably already well known but a brief summary of the apparitions and the messages of Mary to the three children can be found at: [13 Things To Know About Our Lady Of Fatima - Catholic-Link](#)

*"The apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima occurred as the First World War ravaged Europe. Violence, hatred, persecution, and oppression marked the times. Yet, through all this, Our Lady made her presence known to the young children. She is with us through all times..."*



The “Angel of Peace” appeared to the children three times, encouraged them to pray, and taught them how to truly adore the Lord, thus bringing peace. Mary helps us live in peace through union with God and His Church...

The “Angel of Peace” also encouraged the children to make sacrifices and accept suffering for sinners and offenses against Our Lord. Our sufferings and sacrifices can also be meaningful and help unite us with Jesus and His Passion...

As the children offered prayers and penances, they did so not only for themselves but for the conversion of sinners. We can do the same and pray that all sinners might live in the light of the Gospel...



Mary encouraged the children to pray their Rosaries for peace and an end to the war. Mary helps us meditate on the Gospel through the Rosary. Our prayer of the Holy Rosary each day helps us know and follow Jesus through the eyes of His Mother...”

In this time of great troubles why not celebrate by saying the Rosary together? You could focus on the Glorious Mysteries or singly on the 5<sup>th</sup> Glorious Mystery: The Crowning of Our Lady Queen of Heaven. Aid to the Church in Need has a page for ‘virtual’ prayer candles at [Aid to the Church in Need | Prayer Candles \(acnuk.org\)](http://Aid to the Church in Need | Prayer Candles (acnuk.org)) Why not encourage children to add their own prayers and candles?

May		
Celebration and Scripture	Response	Send
<b>1<sup>st</sup> St Joseph the Worker</b> <b>Mt 1: 20-24</b> <i>...an angel of the Lord appeared to (Joseph) in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; 21 she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. ”All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel”. (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...</i>	The angel gave Joseph the courage to trust Mary and to do God’s will. Take a pair of wings and write on it something that may be troubling you that you need God to help you with. Say a prayer to St Joseph. One example can be found at <a href="https://teachingcatholickids.com/st-joseph-saints-for-kids/"><u>https://teachingcatholickids.com/st-joseph-saints-for-kids/</u></a>	Take your angel wings home with you. Put them under your pillow each night. Pray for God’s love to help you with whatever troubles you. You might like to use the prayer to St Joseph as well.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> The English Martyrs</b> <b>Psalm 15: 1-2. 5. 7-11</b> <i>1.Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.</i>	Find out the names of the English martyrs. You will find a list at: <a href="#"><u>Forty Martyrs of England and Wales — Agency for</u></a>	Finish your worship by singing or listening the hymn: ‘Do not be afraid’. Remember

<p><i>I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'</i>  <i>O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;</i>  <i>it is you yourself who are my prize.</i>  <i>2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,</i>  <i>who even at night directs my heart.</i>  <i>I keep the Lord ever in my sight:</i>  <i>since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.</i>  <i>3. You will show me the path of life,</i>  <i>the fullness of joy in your presence,</i>  <i>at your right hand happiness for ever.</i></p>	<p><a href="http://rcaos.org.uk">Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk)</a>  It would be good to focus on those who are associated with our Diocese. Choose some or all of the names on the list. Read their names out as a litany. For example:  <b>'Blessed Christopher Robinson...'</b>  <b>'Pray for us.'</b>  <b>'St Edmund Arrowsmith...'</b>  <b>'Pray for us.'</b>  As you do this, pray that you will be strong like these men and women in standing up for what is right.</p>	<p>that God is always with you through difficult times.  If you want to follow up more about the English Martyrs you could look at:  <a href="http://arundelcathedral.uk">Forty-Martyrs-Votive-Mass-pack.pdf (arundelcathedral.uk)</a></p>
<p><b>18<sup>th</sup> Ascension Thursday</b>  <b>L 24:50-53</b>  <i>Then (Jesus) led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.</i></p>	<p>Even though Jesus has ascended to heaven and we cannot see him, he is still with us, hears us and helps us. Take a circle shaped into a spiral. Think about things you would like to pray to Jesus about- help, thanks, blessings for others etc and write or draw them inside the spiral. After worship cut round the spiral and display somewhere where it will turn gently. This will remind you of our thanks ascending to God, and of Jesus ascending to his Father.</p>	<p>Take another blank spiral home with you. Ask others at home to add their own prayers to the spiral. Display it somewhere to remind everyone of Jesus listening to all of our prayers.</p>

## June

The month of June is dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Leo XIII dedicated the whole world to the Sacred Heart at the request of a religious sister, Blessed Mary of the Divine Heart. It is also the month of Corpus Christi. On Pentecost Sunday the liturgical colour is red. June falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green, a symbol of hope and new life.

### School Feast Days in June

Please pray for the following schools whose feast days are in June:

6<sup>th</sup> June Corpus Christi, Preston

8<sup>th</sup> June St William's, Pilling

9<sup>th</sup> June St Columba's, Barrow

11<sup>th</sup> June Sacred Heart, Barrow, Thornton and Preston

13<sup>th</sup> June St Anthony's, Fulwood

## Celebrating around the World in June

### 3<sup>rd</sup> June

### Feast of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions

The story of the Ugandan martyrs is a graphic one and not one to be described in great detail. I was given a book about them when I was at primary school and found it very unsettling. Nevertheless it is a feast day which hundreds of thousands of pilgrims attend every year at Namugongo and which deserves some form of recognition.

Talk to the children about what it means to be a martyr.

Look at the picture which is a representation of the martyrs bearing palms. In religious art those who have died for their faith ( martyrs) are often shown carrying palms. [st charles lwanga - Bing images](#)

Palms were used in Jewish tradition to celebrate triumph or victory. For Christians, the palm branch became a symbol of martyrdom.



Talk about how much they loved Jesus that the boys were prepared to die rather than stop believing in him.

**Aid to the Church in Need** has a booklet of Prayer Poems for persecuted Christians around the world:

[UK ACNs-Prayer-Booklet .pdf](#)

Make your own palms from paper. Write your own prayers asking God to help you to stand up for what is right even if it means difficult decisions. Write them on the palms and carry them in procession to church or to a central place where you can all gather together. You could use the Scripture reading suggested for the Feast of the English Martyrs from May or Revelations 7: 9-17.

Sing a hymn such as “Walk with me, oh my Lord.” Or “Do not be afraid”.

June		
Celebration and Scripture	Response	Send
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi</b> <b>1 Cor 11:23-26</b> <i>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the</i>	The early Christians were persecuted for following Jesus. They often had to celebrate their masses in secret. Today many people are still persecuted for their beliefs. Say an Our Father together for persecuted Christians around the world.	Many Christians don't have the opportunity to go to mass. Make a special effort to go to mass this week and offer up that mass for all those who can't attend mass easily or freely.

<p><i>new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.</i></p>		
<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday</b>  <b>Acts 2:1-8,12</b>  <i>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?... And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”</i></p>	<p>Try entering into the scene through a form of imaginative contemplation. You might want to have some quiet music playing. Read slowly with plenty of pauses. Don’t encourage responses at this point.</p> <p><i>Imagine you were in Jerusalem that day... Where are you? Are you in the room with the apostles or outside in the marketplace...? What do you hear?. What can you see? What do you think is happening...? Watch the apostles as they rush outside... What are they saying...? What are you saying...? Listen whilst Peter tells everyone that this is the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus ad promised... He tells you all to change your ways and to be baptised in the name of Jesus... What do you do...? Leave this place now and go back to your home.. What will you tell them about what you have heard and seen...?</i></p> <p>This is the part when you can take responses from the children.</p>	<p>Sing or listen to a hymn to the Holy Spirit such as;  <i>The Spirit lives to set us free  Breathe on me breath of God  Spirit of the living God,  fall afresh on me.</i></p> <p>End with a prayer to the Holy Spirit such as:  <b>Come Holy Spirit...</b>  bring me today... love, joy and peace... in all that I say.  <b>Come Holy Spirit...</b>  help me be like you... showing kindness and goodness in all that I do.  <b>Come Holy Spirit</b>  Please Bless my Family and Friends... In all that we do!  And bless the many people... that might not know and love you.  Amen  <a href="http://indefenseofthecross.com">Pray to The Holy Spirit   Holy Spirit Prayers (indefenseofthecross.com)</a></p>
<p><b>29th St Peter and St Paul</b>  <b>Mission Together</b> has lots of information for this feast day. It can be found and downloaded at:  <a href="http://missiontogether.org.uk">Feast days – Mission Together</a></p>		

## July

The month of July is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green.

### School Feast Days in July and August

Please pray for the following schools whose feast days are in July and August:



6<sup>th</sup> July St Maria Goretti's, Preston  
 11<sup>th</sup> July St Benedict's Catholic High School, Whitehaven  
 23<sup>rd</sup> July St Bridget's, Egremont  
 25<sup>th</sup> July St James the Great  
 31<sup>st</sup> July St Ignatius', Preston  
 4<sup>th</sup> August St John Vianney, Blackpool  
 11<sup>th</sup> August St Clare's, Fulwood  
 15<sup>th</sup> August Our Lady of the Assumption, Blackpool  
 20<sup>th</sup> August St Bernard's Catholic High School, Barrow and St Bernard's, Lea  
 21<sup>st</sup> August St Pius X, Preston and Barrow  
 27<sup>th</sup> August Austin Friar's St Monica's, Carlisle  
 28<sup>th</sup> August St Augustine's, Preston

## Celebrating around the World in July

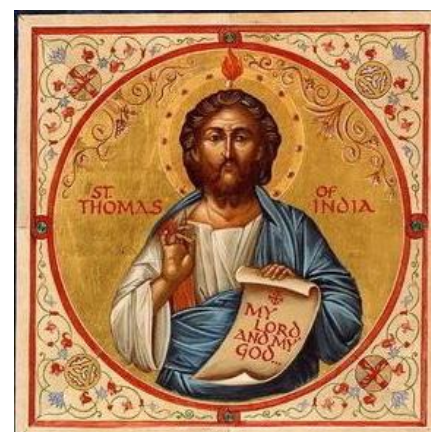
### July 3<sup>rd</sup>

### St Thomas the Apostle

### India

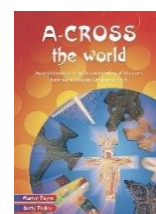
St Thomas is the apostle who 'doubted'. Tradition has it that he brought the Good News to India. He is particularly venerated in Kerala in the south of the country. You can read more about him at: [St. Thomas, Apostle - Information on the Saint of the Day - Vatican News](#)

This icon was created as a gift to the people of the Madhya/Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India (CSI) as a means to let them know of the concerns and prayers of the Diocese of Oregon for them as they recover from the devastation of the December 2004 tsunami. Read more about the icon at: [St. Thomas the Apostle – Trinity Iconography Institute \(trinityiconographers.org\)](#)



Legend says that St Thomas planted crosses in his journey around India. You can find pictures of a new shrine and articles about this at: [Exclusive photos: In Kerala, India, a magnificent shrine to St. Thomas the Apostle \(aleteia.org\)](#)

Why not celebrate the feast by making your own crosses? If schools still have a copy of "A-Cross the World" by Martin Payne and Betty Pedley there are many examples of crosses which you could use as templates. Perhaps you could make a display somewhere outside to 'plant' your crosses, or make an indoor scene somewhere to display them alongside a picture of St Thomas.



July		
Celebration and Scripture	Response	Send
<b>11<sup>th</sup> St Benedict, patron of Europe</b> <b>Mt 19:27-29</b>	St Benedict brought peace and unity to millions of	Say a <i>Hail Mary</i> together asking for peace and unity,



<p><i>Peter said to Jesus, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life."</i></p>	<p>people in Europe through his founding of monasteries.</p> <p><b>It is likely that there are prayers and activities that schools are using given the situation in Ukraine and beyond.</b></p> <p>Try looking on websites such as:  <a href="http://cafod.org.uk">Ukraine prayers of intercession (cafod.org.uk)</a>  <a href="http://acnuk.org">Aid to the Church in Need   Holy Hour for Ukraine (acnuk.org)</a></p> <p>You might use the above as a basis of planning a Holy Hour or Eucharistic Adoration for peace.</p>	<p>especially between all the peoples of Europe. Sing or listen to a hymn for peace such as:</p> <p><i>Peace, perfect peace</i></p> <p><i>Make me a channel of your peace</i></p> <p><i>Longing for light, we wait in darkness</i></p>
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