

22nd October 2025

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you about our class prayer bags which the school purchased and used last year. The idea of the Prayer Bag is that they are sent home with a different family each week. Each class will have their own and a different focus is put on each year group, so if you have more than one child the experience should be different each time. These will be going home on Friday.

We hope you will find the Prayer Bags help you as a family to come together to pray because prayer is so much part of the life of our school. Jesus said that wherever two or three people gather and remember him, he will be there with them. He knew from his own family life with Mary and Joseph how important it was to share his life with his family. We hope and pray that the prayer bag will help you to come together for a few minutes each day over a week to share something very special in the presence of God.

Catholic schools offer our young people the chance to live, work and pray together. Every child's home is also a school of prayer, a place where all the family can come together to reflect and share what you believe. Whatever your own faith we invite you to take this chance and share what is so important in our school.

How to use the Prayer Bag

There are four parts to the Family Prayer: **We Gather, We Listen, We Respond, We Go Forth** (This format is followed through in your child's RE programme at school.)

We Gather

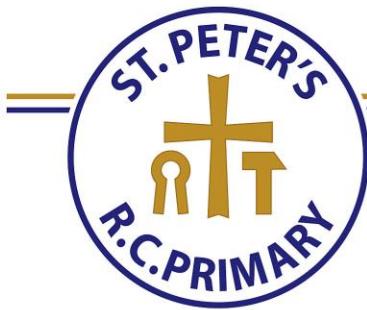
This is about creating a holy space within your home for the family to gather round. This might be on a floor or on a table. Choose a place in your home which suits your family. In the Prayer Bag are a number of items to place in the holy space. We use religious symbols as part of our prayer to remind us that when we pray, we are truly in the presence of God. There is a candle you can use for this focus. There is also a prayer book for you to record any prayer intentions and for your child to write a pray, that will be shared in class.

We listen

An important part of our family prayer is listening to the Word of God. Through the words of scripture God speaks to you as a family. It is important that everyone listens carefully to the reading.

We Respond

Once you have listened to the reading you will be asked to think, talk and share your thoughts about it. You might even like to have a short time of silence to think about what you have heard. You could make up your



own prayers and to share some well-known prayers of the Church. If your child writes a prayer add it to the class prayer book.

We Go Forth

The last part of our family prayer will include ways in which your family can live out what you have prayed about by the love and care that you show one another. There are cards inside the bag for you to do this and to give you ideas.

I would like to stress the importance of looking after these prayer bags, as they are a valuable resource that contribute significantly to the spiritual well-being of our community.

In the event that a prayer bag is damaged due to negligence or misuse, the school reserves the right to levy a fine on the family who are responsible for the damage. I kindly urge you to remind your child about the importance of treating the prayer bags with care and respect. I would appreciate it if you could reinforce this message at home and emphasise the significance of respecting religious articles and symbols.

We would also request that you send photos of your child using the prayer bag to their class teacher via the year group email address, so that the children can talk about this with their class.

Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the prayer bags or their usage, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Anthoney

Deputy Headteacher