

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wallasey



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

John 13:34-35

School Values:

<i>Service</i>
<i>Justice</i>
<i>Love</i>

School Vision:

We seek to build a welcoming, caring community of faith, where we love and serve our children to support them to gain all the necessary spiritual, academic, personal and social skills to succeed in our local and global community.

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body: September 2026

This policy is due for review on- September 2027

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy '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.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)
2. Statement of requirement The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 2 Instrument of Government, clause 2).
3. Responsibility
 - (a) Governance The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:
 - * Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
 - * There is a named person who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school
 - * The prayer and liturgy policy is updated bi-annually and shared with stakeholders.
 - * Funding and resources are provided as needed, to support prayer and liturgy, recognising their central role in the life of a Catholic school, which aligns with other core subjects.
 - (b) Head teacher The head teacher as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:
 - * Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
 - * The head teacher works in partnership with the leader for prayer and liturgy
 - * Those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to

- * There are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- * Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- * There is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- * There is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- * Pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- * Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- * Induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- * Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- * Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- * Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the head teacher and governing body to support whole school development and the Catholic life of the school
- * There is collaboration with local clergy and the two parishes
- * Liaison with Shrewsbury Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

Overview of Prayer and Liturgy

Monday	Whole school assembly and whole school hymn practice (TenTen, led by headteacher/ Deputyhead). Hymns are related to Liturgical Year.
Tuesday	Class based Celebration of the Word/ prayer- led by teacher TenTen /The Mark 10 Mission
Wednesday	Class based Celebration of the Word/prayer-led by teacher and pupils TenTen / The Mark 10 Mission
Thursday	Class based Celebration of the Word/prayer-led by teacher TenTen / The Mark 10 Mission
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly, - beginning with Gospel reading, prayer and mission- led by school prayer leaders.
Prayer	All classes will pray at the beginning of the day, before lunch, and at the end of the day.
	Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will pray the Angelus each day at 12:00pm
	During the months of October and May, pupils will say a daily decade of the rosary.
Masses	Harvest Mass, Epiphany Mass, Feast Day Mass, Year 6 Leavers' Mass. Masses on Holy Days of Obligation (during term times) Weekly Mass in school on Wednesdays individual classes to attend. See RE Diary.
Stay and Pray	Celebration of the Word for each class, families invited to attend. See RE Diary for rota.
Service of Reconciliation	KS2 Whole school service, followed by individual confessions for pupils
Advent	Classes in KS2 present Advent Liturgies to whole school, families to attend. Whole staff Advent Liturgy.
Holy Week	Classes in KS2 present Lenten Liturgies to whole school, families to attend.

	Whole staff Lenten Liturgy.
RE Diary of events	More detailed information is included in the Annual Plan of Provision (APOP)

Prayer and Liturgy Resources:

In order to strengthen the quality of provision of prayer, liturgy and Celebration of the Word across the school, we have purchased all resources available from Ten Ten (online subscription which provides Celebrations of the Word assemblies, inspiring pupil-led prayer resources, daily classroom prayers, hymns, links to home and teacher support). Celebration of the Word, Prayer and Liturgy:

- Parents and carers are welcomed into our Stay and Prays, class liturgies and Masses.
- Our Friday assembly begins with a reflection on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel (head teacher/ senior leader). The Ten Ten worship resources are used to lead the assembly.
- The Monday reflection and celebration assembly, refocuses on the message from the Gospel shared the previous Friday and the responses from the children. We then give thanks for the week and celebrate the children who have used their skills and talents well.
- Throughout the year, there are a number of assemblies (which are related to the Liturgical Year or the RE coverage for that year group) that are led by each year group, to which the parents and carers are invited.
- Whole school Masses are celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation and special Feast Days and Celebration.
- Seasonal celebrations and school events are also held in Church.
- Weekly hymn practices begin with pupils leading prayer and reflection. Hymns are specifically chosen that reflect the Liturgical Year, related to the Sunday Gospel reading or class assembly.

Prayer:

- Prayer is woven into the daily life of our school, including Celebration of the Word and within our school liturgy assemblies and faith celebrations. Prayer is planned for but can also happen at any point in the school day. There is a strong pupil involvement in the preparation and presentation of prayer.
- Classes have a specific RE / Prayer areas and display as appropriate to the liturgical calendar or RE topics.

- All Governing Body meetings and staff meetings begin with a shared prayer.
- Children are encouraged to share music and hymns as part of our shared prayer life in school

4. Resourcing Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is supported by the availability of resources and funding as needed, including staff time, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy are furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs are separate to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

5. Training and formation All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

6. Monitoring and evaluation Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

7. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the governors.

Common prayers

Foundation Stage	Year 1	Year 2	Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3&4)	Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5&6)

• Sign of the Cross • Morning prayer • Grace before meals • The Angelus • Home time prayer	• School prayer • The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary	• Glory Be • Angel of God	• The Apostles' Creed • Act of Contrition • Come, Holy Spirit	• Morning offering • The Rosary • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love • The Magnificat
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Common Prayers

The Sign of the Cross In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The sign of the cross is both an action and a statement of faith. A physical reminder of our redemption in the cross and an expression of faith in the Trinity.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The Lord's Prayer 'is truly the summary of the whole of the Gospel'. (CCC 2761.)

The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

The first part of the Hail Mary is biblical, drawn from Gabriel's greeting to Mary at the Annunciation and Elizabeth's greeting at the Visitation. The second part of the prayer has its origins in 15th-century Italy.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end.

Amen.

The doxology is a short expression of praise of the Trinity dating back to the early Church. It is used extensively in the Liturgy of the Hours and in devotions such as the Rosary.

Grace before meals

God bless our food

God bless those who get it ready for us

Give food to the hungry.

Amen

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,

the Father almighty Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting. Amen.

Based on baptismal documents of the 8th century but related to texts of an earlier origin.

Act of Contrition

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

One of the forms of the Penitent's Prayer of Sorrow found in the Rite of Penance.

Angel of God

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to
rule and guide.
Amen.

The prayer is based on one by Reginald of Canterbury in the early 12th century.

Come, Holy Spirit

V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And you will renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of your faithful,
grant that by that same Holy Spirit,
we may be truly wise,
and ever rejoice in your consolation,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This prayer is a compilation of a number of liturgical texts drawn from the Mass and Office of Pentecost and the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Morning Offering

O my God,
I give to you,
All that I think, and say and do.

All my work and all my happy play
I will give to you, today.
Amen.

The Rosary

For each mystery or decade, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be is recited.

The Joyful Mysteries (Recited Monday and Saturday)

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

The Visitation (Luke 1:39–45)

The Nativity (Luke 2:1–7)

The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–35)

The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

The Mysteries of Light (Recited Thursday)

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)

The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1–12)

The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to Conversion (Mark 1:14–15; 2:3–12)

The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28–36)

The Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26–29)

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Recited Tuesday and Friday)

The Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32–42)

The Scourging at the Pillar (Matthew 27:15–26)

The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31)

The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:15–17; Luke 23:27–32)

The Crucifixion (Luke 23:33–38, 44–46)

The Glorious Mysteries (Recited Wednesday and Sunday)

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1–8) The Ascension (Acts 1:6–11)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–12)

The Assumption (1 Thessalonians 4:13–19)

The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1; 14:1–5; Isaiah 6:1–3)

Prayer concluding the Rosary

[Hail, Holy Queen, etc. as above]

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, whose only-begotten Son,
by his life, death and resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,
grant, we beseech thee,
that meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise,
through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness;
for behold, from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.
For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age for those who fear him.
He has made known the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit
of heart.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted those who are lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, mindful of his mercy, even as he promised to our
fathers, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

*Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:46– 55). It is sung
daily at Evening Prayer.*

Act of Faith

My God, I believe in you
and all that your Church teaches,
because you have said it,
and your word is true.

Act of Hope

My God, I hope in you,
for grace and for glory,
because of your promises,
your mercy and your power.

Act of Love

My God, because you are so good,
I love you with all my heart,
and for your sake,
I love your neighbour as myself

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary.

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray;

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord,

thy grace into our hearts;

that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son,

was made known by the message of an angel,

may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Angelus is traditionally said three times a day: at 6am, 12:10 pm, and 6pm.

