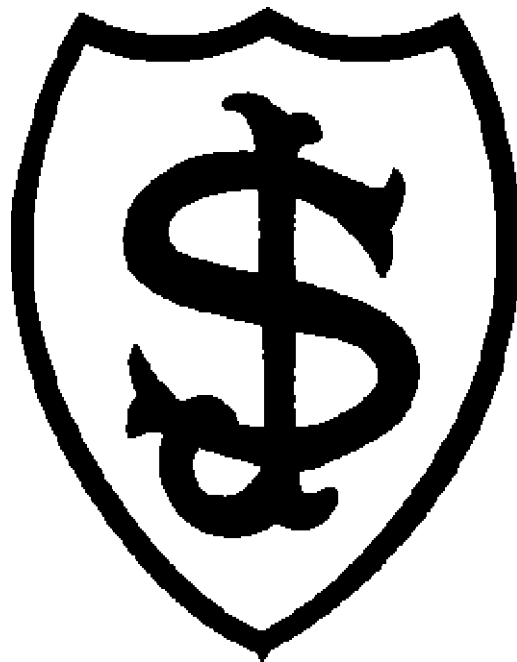


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy (Prayer and Liturgy)



Version	Date	Action
1	Spring 2023	Updated
2	Autumn 2024	Updated
3	Autumn 2025	Updated
4		
5		
6		

Mission Statement

learning, growing, belonging... happy together in God's family

St Joseph's is a school community where we:

- promote Christian values of love, care, and respect
- equip our children with the tools of learning and help them achieve their maximum potential
- create an atmosphere of faith, in which we share and celebrate our Catholic beliefs
- work in partnership with the children, their families, and the parish
- provide a happy and safe environment in which all members of the school community feel valued
- develop the individual needs of our children to give them the confidence to participate as responsible citizens of the future.

Introduction

We believe that Christian worship 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Religious education is a collaborative activity that respects and promotes the capacity for wonder, awe, reverence, and imagination.

"Celebrations of various kinds which help children to understand some of the elements of liturgy (greeting, silence, community praise, especially in song) have a great part to play in the liturgical life of the church."

(Directory of Children's Masses)

It is a legal requirement that Prayer and Liturgy is provided daily for all registered pupils. It is, however, more than this. It is an integral part of school life and central to Catholic tradition and in school is monitored by the head teacher and the RE lead.

Prayer and Liturgy can take various forms. It can be an assembly celebration at the end of a topic or a simple celebration in the classroom situation, but it should be concerned with reverence or veneration to God. In a Catholic school, prayer is addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit.

In Prayer and Liturgy we must consider the audience we are addressing. Simple searching questions that relate to children's everyday experience and age should be asked. Subject matter should relate to the pupils' understanding of life, religion, and worship, as well as including relevant current affairs as a time to reflect and pray.

Aims

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 be respectful and reverent towards the beliefs of others
- 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 introduce children to aspects of the Gospel message and to reflect and celebrate the Word of God at their own level
- 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

Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honor to God.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- Develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organize, and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude, and family backgrounds to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

To do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience.
- be short and appropriately paced (A child's attention span is said to last in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, *5-6 minutes for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes for Key Stage 2*).
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Prayer and Liturgy in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- evaluated

Setting

The setting should be conducive for prayer, reflection, and celebration. Sometimes worship will be quiet and contemplative and at other times it will involve music, laughter, and dance. The mixture needs to be creative and varied, joyful and reverent, penitent and spirit filled.

Assemblies

Prayer and Liturgy is carried out as part of an assembly or within individual classrooms. Our assemblies are a coming together of the school community. They provide an opportunity to extend, enhance and support the programme used in the classroom.

Our assemblies can be a time of greeting, reflection, praise, thanksgiving, meditation, and celebration, and take place each week along with a celebration of the week or on a specific subject, for example, within the theme of the Religious Education Directory (RED).

Whole school assemblies take place on a Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon, with additional worship led through class assemblies and for feast days at different points throughout the year. The whole school is invited to join in worship with the classes who lead these. Parents are invited to the whole school assembly and class assemblies.

Structure

Forms of Prayer and Liturgy follow the accepted four-fold structure of gather, listen, respond, and go forth and particular emphasis may be placed on specific parts as appropriate. They can also follow the forms developed in the rich tradition of the Church, such as the Liturgy of the Hours, the Angelus, meditation, contemplation, etc.

All Prayer and Liturgy must contain scripture using the Good News translation (or other translation approved by the Church), whether it be a full passage or just a short sentence for reflection and meditation. General class Prayer and Liturgy has been planned in each key stage as a starting point for staff. Each Key Stage adapts the Prayer and Liturgy plan to suit the needs of their class and year group.

Liturgies in School

“All those concerned with education should work and plan together to ensure that the children have some idea of God and the supernatural, in proportion to their years and degree of maturity. They can have experience of human values which are involved in the Eucharist celebration by acting together as a community; exchanging greetings; the capacity to listen; to forgive and ask forgiveness; to express gratitude; experience symbolic actions; conviviality and festive

celebrations.”

(*Directory of Children's Masses*)

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the *Directory for Masses with Children* as a basis for our practice, or we will generally use the readings of the day if celebrating with the parish.

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are celebrated in Year 4 and the children are prepared for their reception by the parish team supported by the school. With support from the parish priest the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated with Years 5 and 6 during Lent.

Although children in Years 3 and below are not able to take part in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, all children attend school mass at various points throughout the year. Individual classes also join the parish celebration for daily Mass during the autumn and summer terms.

RE ambassadors, along with their other duties to support Prayer and Liturgy in school, will serve at Masses.

Celebrations other than Eucharistic

KS1 children are gradually introduced into the mysteries of faith which the community celebrates in Eucharistic liturgy. They can be introduced to the Gospel message with a time to reflect and celebrate the message at their own level and pace. Children can be introduced to symbols and movements of the liturgy. Celebration enables children to experience being part of a community of faith. As children are aware of a sense of ritual, parts of the Mass can be incorporated in the following ways:

- Introductory Rites - simple welcome to celebration
Penitential rite / Gloria / Opening prayer - Although all three aspects can be incorporated, it is better to choose one and preference might be given to one liturgical season, e.g., Gloria during Easter season.
- A scripture passage should always be included in celebration.
- Using various methods i.e., pictures, simple responses, children can be encouraged to internalise God's message to His people.
- Art and music offer wonderful opportunities for children to enjoy and respond to celebrations.

Prayer

Prayer is a spontaneous expression of joy, sadness, and other emotions, and leads to a growing awareness of self and others in the world, and our relationship with God. Informal prayers can arise from children's simple everyday experiences, and this can encourage them to be focused, still, quiet or expressively joyful.

Children are encouraged to write their own prayers throughout the school. They are also encouraged to spend time in prayer at our prayer stations in different areas of the school.

Formal prayers are introduced gradually throughout the school. Children will become familiar with them through hearing them said and joining in. They may focus on phrases which are appropriate to topics or sing simple prayers and phrases set to music. Teachers are allowed to choose their own morning, lunch time and end of day prayers for their class, but these may and can be replaced with traditional prayer.

Traditional Prayers are introduced to children gradually. Additionally, those marked with an * can be learnt by memory:

Prayers for Early Years

Sign of the cross*

Our Father*

Hail Mary*

Glory be to the Father*

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Responses at Mass (And with your Spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God)*

Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Prayers for KS1

Sign of the cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

The Jesus Prayer*

Responses at Mass (And with your spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God)

Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Magnificat

Come Holy Spirit

Act of contrition

Prayers for KS2

Sign of the cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

The Jesus Prayer

Responses at Mass (And with your spirit. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God)

Greeting the Gospel (Alleluia)

Magnificat

Come Holy Spirit

Act of contrition*


Confiteor
Benedictus
Magnificat
Eternal Rest
The Rosary
Angelus
Apostles' Creed
Nicene Creed
Hail Holy Queen
Prayer to the Immaculate Conception
Saints prayers e.g. St Teresa of Avila, St Francis of Assisi

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Annual Prayer and Liturgy Plan 2025-26


Learning, growing, belonging...happy together in God's family



	Class Prayer and Liturgy Overview			
	Daily prayers	Common prayers (prayers to learn by heart in bold)	Celebration of the Word	Mass responses
EYFS	Morning Grace before meals End of day	Amen Sign of the cross Glory Be	Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT Thursday: teacher-led Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT	The Lord be with you. <i>R: And with your spirit.</i> Greet the Gospel with "Alleluia"
Year 1	Morning Grace before meals End of day	All the above, plus... Our Father	Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT Thursday: teacher-led Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT	All the above, plus... <u>Liturgy of the Word</u> The Word of the Lord <i>R: Thanks be to God</i> A reading from the holy Gospel according to ... <i>R: Glory to you, O Lord.</i> (Sign of the Cross on forehead, lips, and chest) The Gospel of the Lord. <i>R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.</i> <u>Sign of Peace</u> <i>Peace be with you</i>
Year 2	Morning Grace before meals End of day	All the above, plus... Hail Mary	Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT Thursday: teacher-led Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT	All the above, plus... <u>Sign of Peace</u> <i>Peace be with you</i>

Year 3	Morning Grace before meals End of day	All the above, plus... Jesus prayer Angel of God The Rosary	Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT Thursday: teacher-led Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT	All the above, plus... <u>Introductory Rites</u> Lord, have mercy. <i>R: Lord, have mercy.</i> Christ, have mercy. <i>R: Christ, have mercy.</i> Lord, have mercy. <i>R: Lord, have mercy.</i>	
Year 4	Morning Grace before meals End of day	All the above, plus... Act of Contrition Eternal rest The Apostles Creed Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT Thursday: teacher-led Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT	All the above, plus... <u>Liturgy of the Eucharist</u> <i>Blessed be God for ever.</i> <i>Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i> <i>Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i> <i>Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.</i>	
Year 5 (UKS2 2025-26 only)	Morning Grace before meals End of day	All the above, plus... Doxology (Through Him...) Morning Offering The Magnificat (sung)	Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT Thursday: teacher-led (with children participating, building up to child-led with adult support) Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT	All the above, plus... <u>Liturgy of the Eucharist</u> <i>May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church</i> <u>The Eucharistic Prayer</u> The Lord be with you. <i>R: And with your spirit.</i> Lift up your hearts. <i>R: We lift them up to the Lord.</i> Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	

				<p><i>R: It is right and just.</i></p> <p><i>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i></p> <p><i>Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, All glory and honor is yours, For ever and ever. Amen.</i></p>
Year 6	<p>Morning</p> <p>Grace before meals</p> <p>End of day</p>	<p>All the above, plus...</p> <p>Act of Faith</p> <p>Act of Hope</p> <p>Act of Love</p>	<p>Monday: teacher-led using Sunday Gospel</p> <p>Tuesday: (based on) Liturgy of the Hours</p> <p>Wednesday: Whole school worship led by SLT</p> <p>Thursday: teacher-led (with children participating, building up to child-led with adult support)</p> <p>Friday: Whole school worship led by SLT</p>	<p>All of the above, plus...</p> <p><u>Communion Rite</u> <i>When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.</i></p> <p><i>Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.</i></p>

	Whole School Prayer and Liturgy Overview N.B. Where Holy Days fall on a Sunday, a Celebration of the Word using the scriptures will be held for the whole school.				
	Other prayer opportunities	Services / Celebrations	Holy Day celebration of the Word	Sacraments	School Masses
September	Saint for the half term: St Carlo Acutis	Welcome Assembly			Welcome Mass
October	Rosary	Harvest			
November	Saint for the half term: St Terese of Lisieux	Remembrance Day			All Saints Day
December		EYFS/KS1 Nativity LKS2 Advent Service		First Reconciliation	
January	Saint for the half term: St Teresa of Calcutta		Epiphany Baptism of Jesus		
February	Stations of the Cross		Ash Wednesday Candlemas		
March	Saint for the half term: St Vincent de Paul	Mother's Day Lent/Holy Week assemblies	St Joseph Annunciation	Year 4, 5 and 6 Reconciliation during Lent	
April	Saint for the half term: St Francis of Assisi				
May	Rosary	Month of Mary	Ascension	First Holy Communion	
June	Saint for the half term: St Oscar Romero	Father's Day	Pentecost Holy Trinity Body & Blood of the Lord		St Peter and Paul
July		Year 6 Leavers'			Leavers Mass