

Little Way Catholic
Educational Trust

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust Mission

Our Trust family is united in its shared mission to develop our Catholic ethos in order to transform the lives of every child, family and community we serve, in Jesus' name.

Our vision is to empower every child to excel academically, socially, morally, culturally and spirituality in order that they may flourish as individuals. Assured of the love of God, we strive to educate children within an inclusive and compassionate community which celebrates the gifts and talents of our pupils and removes barriers to learning. We strive to be a community of life-long learners, contributing to a just and loving society.

Our Trust family is a partnership of equals who work collaboratively so that everyone can grow and learn together. We celebrate the diversity of our schools, retaining our individual characteristics, whilst working together for the greater good of our whole community.

Through honesty, respect, service and solidarity we value each other as one family.

All are welcome.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy are at the heart of the community life at Little Way Catholic Educational Trust's (LWCET) schools and reflect the liturgical tradition of the Church, with Christ at its heart. It is an essential part of each school's distinctive Catholic ethos.

It builds on and supports the life of the Domestic Church (the home), where parents are regarded as the first teachers of the Faith, forming their children in their understanding of God's love and prayer, in accordance with the Baptism of their children.

Each school has appointed their own Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator, which is either the Head Teacher, the Chaplaincy Lead or the RE Lead. This person has the overall responsibility for the organisation and celebration of prayer and liturgy in the school and producing an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy in the school.

Legal Requirements

Education Reform Act 1988, as amended by the Education Act 1993

Subject to section 9 of this Act, all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.

As a Catholic community, we acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of Liturgy and Prayer for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Prayer and Liturgy and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear. As part of this, we also take our duty of Safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate our well established Safeguarding procedures. The act of Prayer and Liturgy is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. As a rule, acts of Prayer and Liturgy will take place on the school premises, or at Church.

Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. At all times the Trust is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rights of Withdrawal

Parents/carers can choose to withdraw their child (up to the age of 16 years) from Acts of Prayer and Liturgy. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to 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. Parents should keep in mind the Trust's Mission Statement and each School's mission when choosing a Catholic school and the role that Collective Worship takes in the life of our schools.

Intent and Outcomes

At LWGET schools, we aim for all to know and love Christ and to open the vision and imagination of the school community to the wonders of living in God's world, and the responsibilities that follow. It is enshrined in the school's Mission Statement.

LWGET schools have a holistic aim to educate the whole person (body, mind and soul) thus helping develop the unique gifts and talents of each individual within a broad and balanced curriculum and nurturing pupils' moral and spiritual development, so they may be equipped to live their Catholic life to the full, sharing in the mission of the Church.

Gospel values are at the heart of all we do and the schools strive to provide a welcoming and caring environment that values and works in close partnership with parents/carers, governors, staff, trustees and the wider community to this end.

The cycle and rhythm of the Church's year provides a basis for Prayer and Liturgy, and, throughout the year, each school comes together to celebrate important events in the Church and school calendars. Against this background, daily collective worship provides pupils with a rich variety of opportunities to explore, express and develop their own relationship with God within the context of a worshipping community.

Implementation

The place of Prayer and Liturgy in each Whole School Policy within LWGET

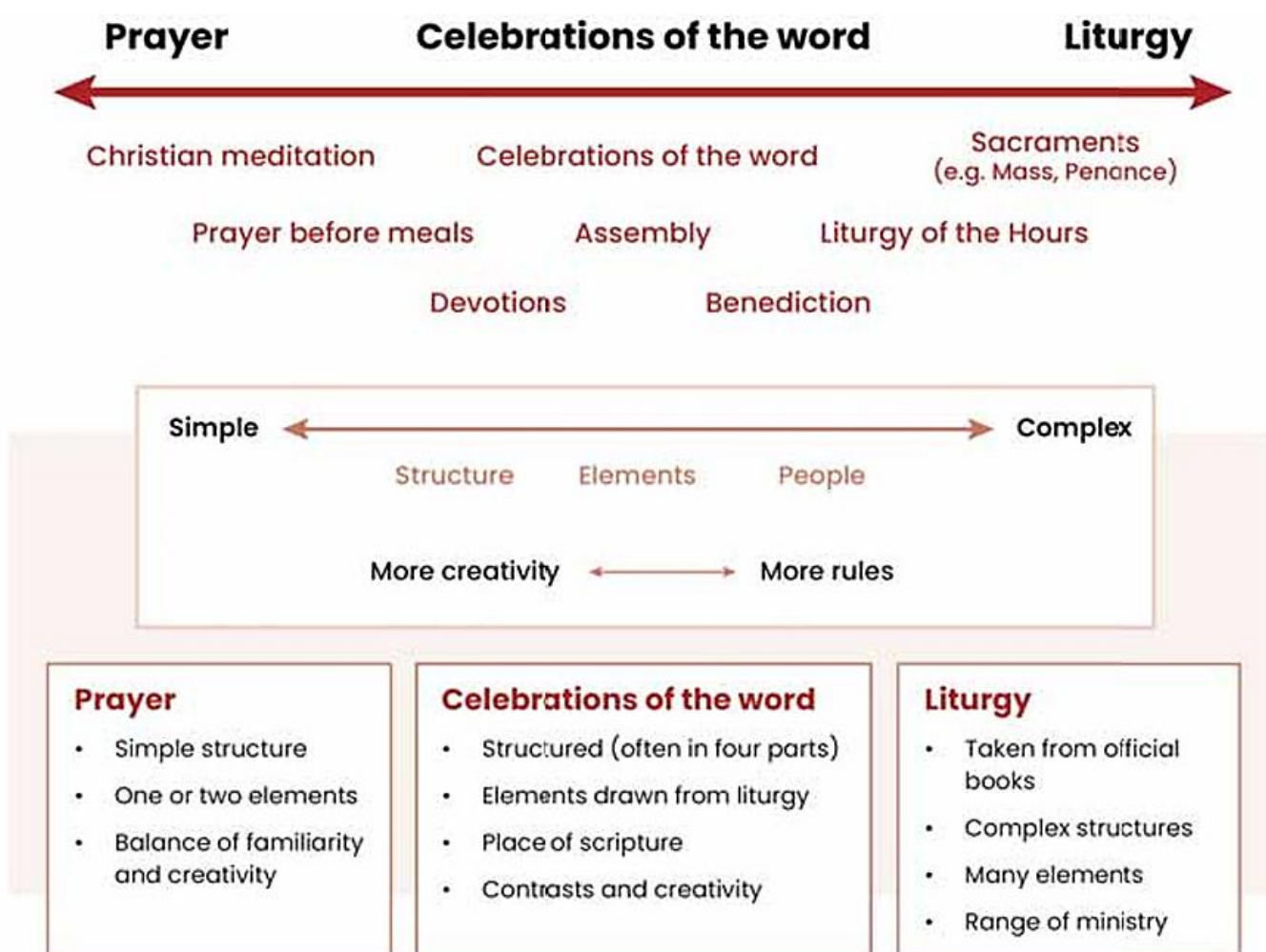
The act of Prayer and Liturgy is central to the life of our Trust schools and is an integral part of pupils' faith formation. It is a way of affirming the school's identity, our individuality and our communal belonging to the Body of Christ. It is our loving response in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Through Prayer and Liturgy, we give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God.

- *Worship is in addition to curriculum RE*
- *Our acts of worship follow the traditions of the Catholic Church*
- *Prayer and Liturgy times are clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery*
- *Pupils help to plan and lead Prayer and Liturgy within their class*
- *An act of worship commences with the Sign of the Cross to gather the community together, provides a time for reflection and concludes with a sense of renewed and deepened relationship with God*
- *Pupils and staff have the opportunity to experience different forms of prayer, including formal, more traditional prayers of the Catholic Church, prayers common across each school said at agreed times of the school day, as well as spontaneous prayer, meditative prayer and time for contemplation*
- *Prayer time is quality time and participants are given the opportunity to take part in a meaningful way, in order to develop a real 'sense of prayer'*
- *Pupils are encouraged to understand why we say prayers and what the prayer is about*
- *Sharing worship with children is an opportunity to help each child to understand and take part in the adult worship of the Parish, but at their own level*
- *All worship is open to all faiths represented in our schools*

- The celebration can address the emotions and feelings of the child's experience, reflect thanksgivings, special days or feast days. It gives the opportunity to reflect silently on the Word of God
- Children are given the opportunity to worship through song. We learn a range of traditional and modern hymns in regular singing practise
- Worship in our schools creates a real sense of belonging for all involved
- Every opportunity is taken to extend a warm and genuine welcome to priests, parents, parishioners and members of the local community to take part in each school's worship

How Collective Worship is Organised at LW CET schools

The diagram below (taken from *The Prayer and Liturgy Directory (2023)*) shows how Collective Worship is explored in greater depth, under the terms 'Liturgy', 'Celebrations of the Word' and 'Prayer' which are terms more commonly used in a Catholic context.



Time Allocation

Throughout each school's week, specific time is allocated for Collective Worship. Child-led prayer is encouraged daily to develop our children as leaders of their own faith.

At each school there is a variety of formats including Celebration of the Word with gospel or values/virtues focus; Class Celebrations of the Word; Hymn Practises and whole school Celebrations of Achievements. Appendix 1 shows how time typically is allocated at each LW CET school.

In addition, liturgies are held in accordance with the liturgical calendar, taking account of important times in the Church's year and Holy Days of Obligation. Details of each school's liturgies can be found on their website.

Community and Participation

Through our various roles we aspire to have the common good at the heart of what we do, to support us to improve the wellbeing of people in our society and the wider world.

The role of the children is to be leaders of their own faith, where they listen and respond to the values and virtues that guide them, to work together to leave our earth better than they found it.

They hear the call to encourage each other and develop their connections with their community, becoming active participants that choose to act with Christ at the heart of all they do. Our children do this by:

- Understanding their school mission statement
- Preparing and leading reflections and prayer times
- Understanding and respecting other faiths
- Making links in the community, parish, Trust and universal church

The role of the staff is to guide and nurture the children's understanding of how God made us to build community cohesion, so all people can share and help each other in unity.

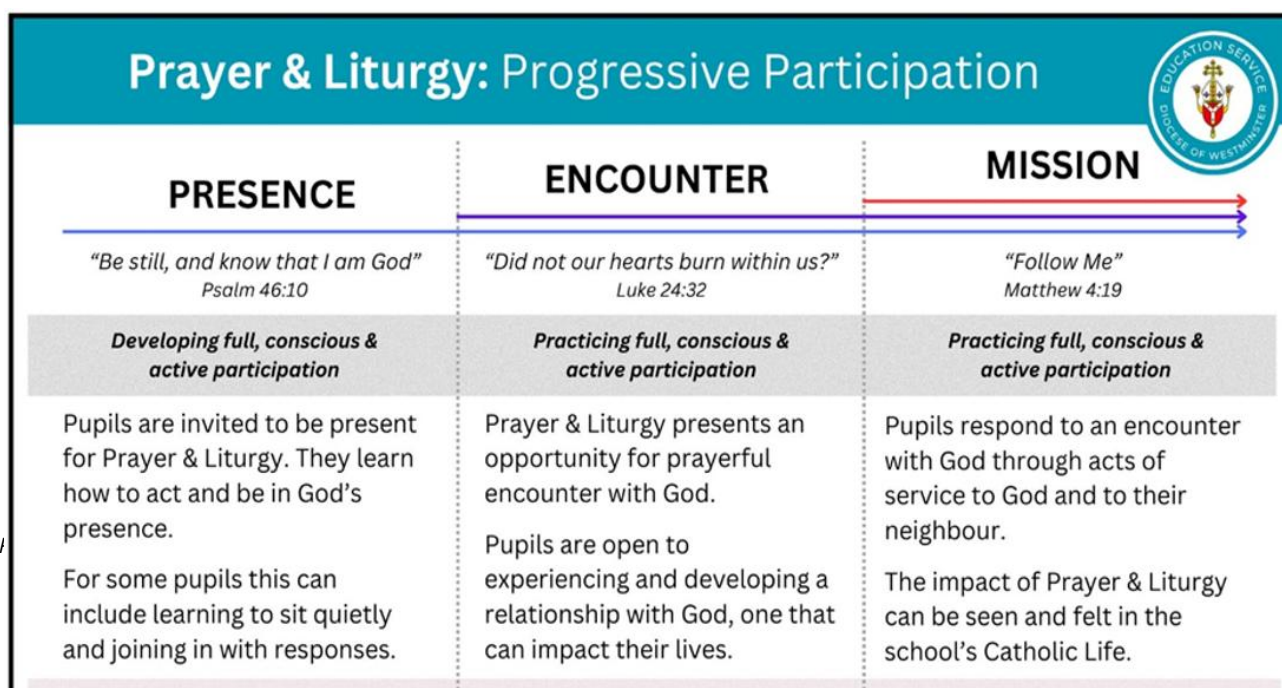
It is also to share the belief that people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and wellbeing of all. In its simplest form, it is about articulating that we live together as a community in solidarity.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself
Matthew 22: 39

To participate 'fully' means appreciating that the whole gathered community is involved (as well as the wider Church); on an individual level, that the whole person is engaged through body, mind, and spirit; and that the individual is also sharing in the work of the whole gathered community (as well as of the wider Church).

To participate 'consciously' requires that the individual has an appreciation of the meaning of what is happening and has a glimpse into the mystery. Therefore the liturgy should be appropriate to the participant's age and development.

To participate 'actively' means to enter the liturgy with an openness to God's grace, so that the encounter between Christ and his people in the celebration can change us and have a direct impact on the way we live our lives in the future.








Each of the parishes that our schools serve are a Christian community that has faith, action and hope at the heart of it. With strong links to the clergy at the parishes we serve, we celebrate a common desire to change the world through the values and virtues presented in the teachings of Jesus. These parishes have the opportunity to take part in the prayer life of their link school, celebrations, retreats, masses and community inspired events. This community spirit is driven through our children’s desire to change our world; choosing to work closely with others in solidarity.

“An authentic faith—which is never comfortable or completely personal—always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it,” – Pope Francis

Visitors are welcomed into our Trust school families, whether this is in person or virtually. Visitors will experience how faith, hope and love is lived out within our settings. They will feel the calm and reflective atmosphere around each school from both the children and the staff. Members of each school work together to support the concept of community, where they welcome a variety of visitors whilst modelling the values and virtues taught to us by Christ. Visitors will experience a community working cohesively to connect to the world around them that extends wider than the parameters of the school, whilst keeping the rhythm of the church’s year.

Taking part in Mass

Staff need to ensure that anyone reading in Mass has been properly prepared and understands the meaning of the reading, as readings should be proclaimed and not just read. When reading from the Gospel, a Bible or Lectionary should be used, so that pupils have a visual of where the reading is coming from. Greeting the Gospel with an acclamation reminds us of the importance of the Word of God.

	Engagement	Participation	Ministry
 Who?	Everybody – including members of other religious traditions and people of good will	Those who have been baptised (of any denomination)	Member of those who have been baptised (of any denomination)
 Gather	To be present – to become alert to what is going in their lives and the world	To recognise one’s membership of body of Christ	To welcome, to articulate the context and to set the atmosphere
 Word	To experience – to engage with what is happening through the senses	To listen to God’s speaking in his Word	To proclaim the Word, communicating effectively and appropriately
 Response	To reflect – to ask what has been experienced and what it means to their lives	To offer praise, thanksgiving and petition to God through Christ.	To provide a focus for the response and to enable an appropriate response
 Send	To respond – to ask how to take forward into living a good life	To live out one’s baptismal calling.	To draw together the celebration and to offer a bridge to life in practice.

er gifts as
Mass.

Spiritual Spaces

Prayer areas or spiritual spaces, such as, school chapels, altars, prayer gardens or reflection rooms, can provide children and adults with an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection and to explore prayer in an open, inclusive and safe environment. Children should be encouraged to use and if possible, contribute to these spaces, showing respect and an understanding of how these areas reflect the Catholic identity of the Trust schools.

All classes and communal areas within our Trust should have prayer areas, linked to the liturgical calendar and containing spiritual artefacts and resources which aim to generate contemplation, provide inspiration and give a focal point for prayer. Prayer areas should be created by or with the children and should contain a candle, a cross, a Bible and a cloth reflecting the correct liturgical colour.

Impact

Children at LWCET schools are developing a growing independence to pray through stillness. They understand the importance of spending time in God's presence, both individually and as a community, to deepen their faith and develop a relationship with God.

They use prayer and liturgy to strive every day to bear witness to Christ and 'be the change they want to see in the world today'. They demonstrate reverence, sing joyfully and respect the needs of others to pray. This nurtures the children to love themselves, love each other and love Jesus Christ.

Monitoring

At least once a year each school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. Monitoring is essential to ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to pray, lead Celebration of the Word, experience a variety of prayers, especially traditional Catholic prayers, and have the opportunity to celebrate Mass and reconciliation.

This evaluation is brought together in executive summaries as the year progresses and these feed into Headteacher's reports to their Local Governing Committee and to the Trust Board.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc. Class-led Celebrations of the Word are recorded on a planning template which is used in our Trust schools and helps to guide the worship against a shared theme.

Appendices

Appendix 1: School's weekly liturgy schedule

Appendix 2: Information on Prayer

Appendix 3: The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust Prayer and Skills Progression

Appendix 4: Prayers for each year group in the Religious Education Directory and the Prayer
and Liturgy Directory

Appendix 5: Example of an Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer and Liturgy

Appendix 6: The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust Monitoring Forms

Appendix 7: The Seasons of the Liturgical Year

Appendix 1:

Schools' Weekly Prayer & Liturgy Schedule

St Catharine's	
	<i>Each school day begins and ends with a prayer, with prayers at lunchtime</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Celebration of the Word - Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the Headteacher - reflecting Catholic Social Teaching principles</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Class Celebration of the Word</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Weekly Class Prayer planned and led by pupils in each class</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Celebration of the Word - Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching focus</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the School Chaplaincy Team</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child led prayer</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Hymn Practice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by a music specialist</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child led prayer</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Let Your Light Shine Celebration Assembly</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Celebrating the achievements of children across the whole school</i> • <i>Recognising the special and unique skills and talents demonstrated by children both inside and outside of school</i>

St Gregory's	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Celebrations of the Word - Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the Headteacher & Chaplaincy Team</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Celebrations of the Word - Values and Virtues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teachers organise with children ready for delivery</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Hymn Practice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Class Celebrations of the Word</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chance to respond to the week's Celebrations of the Word- Gospel focus</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Celebration Assembly</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Celebrating children across the school</i> • <i>Recognising the special and unique skills demonstrated by children both inside and outside of school</i>

<i>St Joseph's</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Liturgical Prayer – Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by Chaplaincy and children across the school</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Hymn Practice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child led prayer</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Liturgical Prayer - Values and Virtues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teachers organise with children ready for delivery</i> • <i>Linked to key role models within the Catholic faith e.g. Saints and religious leaders</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child led prayer</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Class Liturgical Prayer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chance to respond to the week's Liturgical Prayer</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i> • <i>Weekly Class or Whole School Mass at church</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Celebration Assembly</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Celebrating children across the school.</i> • <i>Recognising the special and unique skills demonstrated by children both inside and outside of school</i>

<i>St Peter's</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Celebrations of the Word - Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the Headteacher</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Hymn Practice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by Chaplaincy and RE Leads</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Core Virtues and Catholic Social Teaching</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by all teaching staff on a rota</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Class Celebration of the Word</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An opportunity to respond to the Gospel of the week</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Celebration Assembly</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by Headteacher, reflecting Catholic Social Teaching principles and the school's Values</i>

<i>The Rosary</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Celebrations of the Word - Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the Headteacher</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Picture News</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Linked to British Values, Current Affairs and Catholic Social Teaching – led by Teachers/HL TA's on a rota basis</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Prayer and Praise</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In preparation for liturgies - led by teachers on a rota basis</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Class Celebration of the Word</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by children of that class</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Celebration of Achievements</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the Headteacher</i>

<i>St Thomas More</i>	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Celebrations of the Word - Gospel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the Headteacher</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Hymn Practice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by our Senior Leadership Team</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child led prayer</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Celebration of the Word – Catholic Social Teaching</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Led by the School Chaplaincy Team</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child led prayer</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Class Celebration of the Word</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Weekly Class Prayer planned and led by pupils in each class</i> • <i>Opportunities for daily class and child-led prayer</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Celebration Assembly</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Celebrating the achievements of children across the whole school</i> • <i>Recognising the special and unique skills and talents demonstrated by children both inside and outside of school</i>

Appendix 2: Information on Prayer

Why is Prayer necessary?

Prayer is the foundation of Christian Life. Prayer is communication or communion with God. Through prayer we are drawn deeper into the life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself taught us the need for prayer. In Gethsemane as He prepared Himself for the climax of His life, Jesus received the strength He needed in prayer to His Father, "Abba Father Take this cup away from me but let it be as you not I, would have it". At moments of His public ministry when those in need were pressing around Him, Jesus went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

What is Prayer?

We can pray anywhere and at any time. The first step is to place ourselves, as we are, in the presence of God. The second step in prayer is to pray. This means speaking to the Lord, asking Him for our needs and thanking Him for the many gifts He has given to us. This leads to praise and adoration. The third step is to be silent so the Lord Himself can guide the direction of our hearts.

How do we Pray?

The best prayers are those that come from the heart. There are times however, when we find it almost "impossible" to pray: and then we need prayer books and the prayers we have learned by heart. Our children should have the opportunity to find out about and respond in a variety of ways to Jesus' example and teaching with regard to prayer. They should be encouraged to explore the different forms of prayer, and to be helped to grow in appreciation of the importance of prayer in sustaining a living relationship with God. Children's experience of prayer and worship in school, which for some of our children will be the only prayer experiences they will receive, will have a deep impact on their spiritual development as Christians, and a love of their Catholic heritage which they can take into their adult life. Their lives of Prayer Worship must be continually developed and fostered.

In prayer we become aware of God's presence with us and his love for us. We listen to Him in order to discover His will for us and to express to Him our gratitude, praise, love and adoration.

We can foster the children's life of prayer by helping them become aware of God's presence in their lives and His love for them and by leading them to respond to Him in a manner appropriate to their age.

Children learn to pray chiefly by sharing in the faith and prayer of adult Christians, especially parents, priests and teachers. Therefore, we believe that we should go a step beyond teaching them prayers, we should pray with them in their presence.

We should encourage them to pray by themselves, especially in the morning and at night. There are many ways of helping the children to meet God Our Father in prayer:

Prayers of Silence

To help the children participate in a prayerful silence, we can use various ways of focussing their minds on prayer. We can ask them to concentrate on an object, a picture, a lighted candle, some quiet background music or by giving them guidance about what to think: "Let's think about".

Spontaneous prayer

Once we have begun it is often difficult to stop children praying spontaneously. The children may not be able to express their thoughts accurately at first, and they may initially be shy or embarrassed. Many of their prayers may be prayers of petition for a sick parent, grandparent or friend. We try to encourage them to pray not only for what they want, but also to pray that things will turn out as God knows best. We also encourage the children to express thanksgiving, love and praise to God the Father in their spontaneous prayer.

Praying through gesture or action

We encourage children to make even the simplest gestures thoughtfully so that the gesture or action is a prayer in itself. Gestures that the children will be taught as they move through the school will include: making the Sign of the Cross, joining their hands, offering the sign of peace, bowing their heads at the name of Jesus, genuflection, hand gestures, processions etc.

Formal /Traditional Prayers

As the children move through school they will be taught and introduced to the commonly used prayers of the Church so that they are able to join in and participate in parish celebrations. The introduction of many of the responses of the Holy Mass, are incorporated into their classroom and assembly prayer and worship celebrations. Our aim is to help the children to develop a reverence and a positive attitude to praying.

Praying through Music and Song

Listening to reflective music can create an atmosphere conducive to prayer and reflection. The singing of hymns can be so joyful. "Singing hymns is praying twice". Reflective music and singing are both used during prayer and worship sessions.

<i>The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust Prayer and Skills Progression</i>							
<i>Age Phase</i>	<i>EYFS</i>	<i>5-7 (Key Stage 1)</i>		<i>7-9 (Lower Key Stage 2)</i>		<i>9-11 (Upper Key Stage 2)</i>	
<i>Formal Oral Prayers</i>	<i>Sign of the Cross Hail Mary Our Father School Prayer</i>	<i>Sign of the Cross Glory Be Hail Mary Our Father School Prayer LWCET Prayer</i>		<i>Sign of the Cross Hail Mary Our Father Glory Be Eternal Rest Act of Contrition Come, Holy Spirit Angel of God Come, Holy Spirit School Prayer LWCET Prayer The Apostles Creed The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</i>		<i>Sign of the Cross Hail Mary Our Father Glory Be Eternal Rest Act of Contrition Come, Holy Spirit Angel of God Come, Holy Spirit School Prayer LWCET Prayer The Apostles Creed Nicene Creed The Magnificat Morning Offering The Rosary Act of Faith / Act of Hope / Act of Love The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</i>	
<i>Liturgical Prayers</i>	<i>Simple responses e.g. and with your spirit, peace be with you, Amen</i>	<i>Simple responses Bidding prayer responses Responses to short litanies e.g. pray for us Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord</i>	<i>Mass responses including Eucharistic acclamation: Lord have mercy (Holy Holy) Bidding prayer responses Responses to short litanies e.g. pray for us</i>	<i>Mass responses including Eucharistic acclamation: (Holy Holy) Blessed be God forever Concluding Rites Bidding prayer responses Responses to short litanies e.g. pray for us Take part in Mass readings</i>	<i>All Mass prayers and responses (using children's Mass card) Take part in Mass readings</i>	<i>Lamb of God All Mass prayers and responses (using children's Mass card) Renewal of Baptismal promises Take part in Mass readings</i>	<i>All Mass prayers and responses (using children's Mass card) Renewal of Baptismal promises Take part in Mass readings</i>

Age Phase	<i>EYFS & 5-7 (Key Stage 1)</i>			<i>7-9 (Lower Key Stage 2) & 9-11 (Upper Key Stage 2)</i>			
Gesture/ Action	<i>Sign of Cross Sign of Peace Greeting Join hands together Hold hands Lift hands up Fold hands across chest for blessing at communion Genuflection/Bow Use Holy water Take part in the offertory procession. Use candles for prayer</i>			<i>Greeting Join hands together Hold hands Lift hands up Genuflection/Bow Use holy water Take part in offertory procession Fold hands across chest for blessing at communion Sign forehead, lips and heart to greet the Gospel Take part in the offertory procession. Use candles for prayer</i>			
Year	<i>EYFS</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
Informal Prayer	<i>Graces before meals Simple prayers of thanksgiving Simple prayers to thank God for Creation</i>	<i>Graces before meals Simple prayers of thanksgiving Simple examen Simple Visio Divina</i>	<i>Graces before meals Simple prayers e.g. thanksgiving Simple examen Simple Visio Divina Simple Lectio Divinia</i>	<i>As for KS1 and... Bidding prayers Simple examen Simple Visio Divina Simple Lectio Divinia</i>	<i>As for KS1 and... Bidding prayers Jesuit examen Visio Divina Lectio Divinia</i>	<i>As for KS1 and... Bidding prayers Jesuit examen Visio Divina Lectio Divinia</i>	<i>As for KS1 and... Bidding prayers Jesuit examen Visio Divina Lectio Divinia</i>
Silence/ Reflection	<i>Take part in simple still exercises</i>	<i>Remain still for a few moments and think quietly</i>	<i>Remain still for a few moments and think quietly</i>	<i>Participate in extended periods of stillness and quiet thoughts</i>	<i>Participate in extended periods of stillness and quiet thoughts</i>	<i>Take part in guided meditation</i>	<i>Take part in guided meditation</i>
Independent skills of prayer and worship	<i>Understand the reasons for a focal point to aid prayer. With help choose appropriate coloured cloth and artefact.</i>	<i>Independently choose coloured cloth and artefact for focal areas and contribute to prayers.</i>	<i>Set up an appropriate focal area on a given theme and choose a hymn and contribute to prayers.</i>	<i>As for KS1 Be able to plan and deliver a simple liturgy for their peers choosing an appropriate scripture story, hymn/song independently.</i>	<i>As for KS1 Be able to plan and deliver a simple liturgy for their peers choosing an appropriate scripture story, hymn/song independently.</i>	<i>As for KS1 Be able to plan and deliver a simple liturgy for their peers choosing an appropriate scripture story, hymn/song independently.</i>	<i>As for KS1 Be able to plan and deliver a simple liturgy for their peers choosing an appropriate scripture story, hymn/song independently.</i>

Appendix 4:

Prayers for each year group in the Religious Education Directory and the Prayer and Liturgy Directory

RED EYFS		
Sign of the Cross Glory Be School Prayer/hymn		
RED Year 1	RED Year 3	RED Year 5
Opening of Nicene Creed Our Father Hail Mary 1 st Phrase of the Gloria Glory Be	St Francis, Canticle of Creation Extracts from Psalm of Creation A Prayer for our Earth (Laudato Si) Our Father Prayers and responses said during the Eucharistic Prayer Prayers referencing the Trinity	Act of Faith, Hope and Love Prayers Little Way Week Jesuit Pupil Profile Psalm 23 Joyful Mysteries O Antiphons Vespers for 17 th – 23 rd December Our Father Sorrowful Mysteries Simple Examen Act of Contrition Glorious Mysteries Come Holy Spirit
RED Year 2	RED Year 4	RED Year 6
Psalms as prayers to praise God. Some words of the Magnificat. Act of Sorrow (Contrition) Our Father Simple Examen Lord have Mercy Come Holy Spirit	St Terese prayer 'May today there be peace' John Henry Newman 'Mission of my life' Bl Charles de Foucauld 'Prayer of Abandonment.' Nicene Creed Apostles Creed Marian Prayers, Hail Mary, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Magnificat, Ave Maria.	Nicene Creed Magnificat Music from one of the signs of St John's Gospel The Stations of the Cross Act of Faith, Hope and Love Prayers Benediction

Appendix 5

Example of an Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer and Liturgy

Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer & Liturgy 2024-2025					
September		October		November	
Term 1 – Mission Statement, Values and Charism		Gospel Value Term 2 - Community		Gospel Value Term 2 - Community	
2 nd	Staff Liturgy	4 th	Saint Day: St Therese de Lisieux	4 th	CW – HT – Human Dignity
3 rd	CW – HT - New beginnings - Zaccheus	6 th	Saint Day: St Francis of Assisi	7 th	CW – Gospel Value – RE Lead - Community
10 th	CW – Gospel Value – RE Lead – Mission Statement	6 th	School/Parish Mass – Harvest Mass	8 th	Year 6 Celebration assembly for parents
11 th	Start of Year Mass	7 th	HT – Our Lady of the Rosary - Liturgy	11 th	HT - Remembrance Service
23 rd	International Day of Peace – led by P + W Council – Fratelli Tutti	12 th	Grandparent Celebration	15 th	Year 5 Celebration assembly for parents
25 th	Staff Deanery Mass @	14 th	Saint Day: Blessed Carlo Acutis	18 th	CW – CAFOD Visitor
26 th	P+W Council Formation Day @	14 th	CW - Laudate Si! – led by Eco Council	22 nd	Year 4 Celebration assembly for parents
27 th	Saint Day: St Mary Star of the Sea	21 st	CW – HT - The Common Good	25 th	CW – HT – Getting ready for Advent
December		January		February	
Gospel Value Term 2 - Community		Gospel Values Term 3 – Justice and Reconciliation		Gospel Values Term 3 – Justice and Reconciliation	
1 st	School Parish Mass – Advent Sunday	7 th	HT – CW – Epiphany - Stewardship	3 rd	CW – HT – the Common Good
2 nd	Year 3 Celebration assembly for parents	9 th	CW – Gospel Value – RE Lead – Justice and Reconciliation	7 th	EYFS Celebration assembly for parents
11 th	Reconciliation with Fr – Years 4/5	10 th	Epiphany of the Lord Mass – Fr	25 th	CW – Gospel Value – RE Lead - Service
11 th	Year 6 reflection with Fr @ Blessed Carlo Acutis exhibition	13 th	CW – HT - Pilgrims		
12 th	Reconciliation with Fr – Years 5/6	17 th	Year 2 Celebration assembly for parents		
13 th	Parish Mass – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	20 th	CW – HT – Jubilee of Hope		
13 th	Junior Carols at Church	24 th	Deanery Art Day		
16 th	CW – HT – Joy – Gaudete Sunday	27 th	Year 1 Celebration assembly for parents		
16 th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity	31 st	CW – Launch Day – Year of Hope led by P+W Council		
17 th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity				
19 th	Christingle with Fr E				
24 th	School Parish Mass – Christmas Eve				
March		April		May	
Gospel Value Term 4 - Service		Gospel Values Term 5 – Faith and Love		Gospel Values Term 5 – Faith and Love	
3 rd	CW – Prayer Council – CST – Stewardship	3 rd	CW – Prayer Council – Easter gardens	1 st	Saint Day: St Joseph
5 th	Ash Wednesday Mass	3 rd	Stations of the Cross – School event	2 nd	Mary Procession with Fr – EYFS, Yrs 1 + 2
9 th	School Parish Mass - Lent	Easter Break		2 nd	Year 4 Celebration assembly for parents
10 th	CW – HT and Y6 – CSI – Distributive Justice	24 th	CW – Gospel Value – P + L Lead – Faith and Love	9 th	HT – the Rosary + Pope Leo XIV
14 th	Year 6 Celebration assembly for parents	25 th	Easter Worship – led by P + W Council	16 th	Year 2 Celebration assembly for parents
17 th	CW – HT – Lent – a time for reconciliation	28 th	CW – HT – CST – Preferential Option for the Poor	17 th	FHC – Sacrament of Reconciliation
18 th	Reconciliation with Fr – Years 4/5			22 nd	Year 1 Celebration assembly for parents
19 th	Reconciliation with Fr – Years 4/5			22 nd	Fr to bless the Year 1 Mary Garden
21 st	Year 5 Celebration assembly for parents			22 nd	Fr to meet Year 3 for the Rosary in the Mary garden
22 nd	Family liturgy - Stations of the Cross			23 rd	CW – HT – CST – Solidarity
30 th	School Parish Mass – Mothering Sunday				
June		July		Continuous Provision for Prayer	
Gospel Values Term 6 – Courage and Hope		Gospel Values Term 6 – Courage and Hope		Continuous Provision for Prayer	
2 nd	CW – HT – CSI – Promoting Peace	3 rd	CW – Sch Council – Disconnect to Reconnect	Daily Classroom Prayers (morning, before lunch and end-of-day)	
6 th	EYFS Celebration assembly for parents	14 th	CW – HT - tbc	Staff Meeting prayers	
7 th	First Holy Communion	18 th	Leavers Mass	Weekly timetable:	
8 th	First Holy Communion			Monday – Gospel Worship	
9 th	Sports Lead – CST – Participation			Tuesday – Key Stage - Celebration of the Word	
13 th	Eco Council – Big Plastic Count			Wednesday – Worship through praise	
15 th	School Parish Mass – Father's Day			Thursday – Pupil led Celebration of the Word	
18 th	CW – Gospel Values – P + L Lead – Courage and Hope			Friday – Collective Worship or Celebration of learning assemblies	
20 th	Year 3 Celebration assembly for parents			Key:	
21 st	Corpus Christi Procession and Mass			Mass at Church	
23 rd	CW – HT – Human Dignity			Mass at School	
25 th	Mass @ Cathedral			Worship led by Children	
26 th	CW – DHT – Feast of the Sacred Heart			CW – Collective Worship	
27 th	Feast of the Sacred Heart – Mass including celebration of FHC				
29 th	Saint Day: St Peter and St Paul (Year 5)				
30 th	CW – HT – Change and discipleship				

Gospel Values, British Values, & Catholic Social Teaching

Termly Focus:

Term	Gospel Value - SC	Catholic Social Teaching – SA	British Value – AO’R
Autumn 1	School’s mission statement and values	What is Catholic Social Teaching?	What are British Values?
Autumn 2	Community	Participation & Subsidiarity	Respect
Spring 1	Justice & Reconciliation	The Common Good	Rule of Law
Spring 2	Service	Stewardship & Distributive Justice	Democracy
Summer 1	Faith & Love	Preferential Option for the Poor & Solidarity	Tolerance
Summer 2	Courage & Hope	Human Dignity & Promoting Peace	Individual Liberty

Prayer & Liturgy Action Plan (2024/2025):

Action (inc. by whom)	How	By When	Impact
<p>Further develop links with the local Parish (SLT, CTs, children & Parish Priest).</p> <p>Continue to schedule regular School – Parish Masses encouraging a wide range of children to take an active part in liturgy. (SLT)</p> <p>Continue to support FHC in school and in the parish. (SLT and Governors)</p> <p>Continue membership of Parish Leadership groups (Headteacher)</p>	<p>Grandparents’ tea party.</p> <p>Stations of the Cross.</p> <p>All classes to visit and attend weekday Mass.</p> <p>Maintain displays in the parish showcasing RE work and actions in school.</p>	Throughout the year – July 2025	<p>Strengthened community network where families, children, staff, and the priest can collaborate to support each other, foster spiritual growth, and provide a holistic environment for young people to learn and develop their faith within their community.</p> <p>Strengthened connection between home, school and parish building on parents as first educators and working together to nurture the whole child.</p> <p>Greater understanding in the parish of the RE curriculum and what the school is doing to support children on their faith journey.</p>
<p>Introduce and embed the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles throughout school life and the curriculum (RE Lead, children, & CTs).</p> <p>Engage with CAFOD assemblies and resources including CAFOD visitor to assemblies and the provision of workshops for all classes.</p>	<p>Worship/assemblies.</p> <p>Staff meetings.</p> <p>Linking the curriculum/learning with the CST principles.</p> <p>Introduce displays around the school and embed them within classroom displays.</p> <p>CST assemblies and workshops.</p>	Throughout the year – July 2025	CST can significantly impact children, staff, and the community by providing a moral framework rooted in the Christian faith, urging people to actively work towards social justice, advocating for the dignity of every human person, and promoting actions to address issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns, essentially guiding Catholics to live out their faith through concrete actions in the world.
Engage with the CAFOD Live Simply Award (Prayer Council, Eco Council, School Council, CTs, & children).	See CAFOD Live Simply action plan	Throughout the year – July 2025	By signing up to Live Simply, our school will impact our global family, our local community and our school community as we reflect the teachings of Jesus, Catholic Social Teaching and Laudato Si’ along our journey.
Celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope (All staff and children).	Engage with: Launch Day Pledge Day Celebration Day Worship/assemblies Lessons Deanery and Diocesan events	Throughout the year – July 2025	Celebrate the ‘Jubilee Year of Hope’ inaugurated by Pope Francis. It is a special year for renewal, forgiveness and with a renewed focus on hope where our community will reflect on our relationship with God, others, and creation, often leading to increased acts of charity, social justice advocacy and personal spiritual growth; all while embracing the message that even in difficult times, there is hope for a better future.

Prayer & Liturgy Next Steps (2025/2026):

Action	By Whom	By When
To further develop the use of the Mary Garden – providing the Prayer Council with the strategies needed to support other children to independently use it as a reflective space.	Prayer Council Lead Headteacher Deputy Headteacher	December 2025
To further develop staff understanding of CST and ensure that the principles are embedded throughout all areas of the curriculum.	All Staff	December 2025
To create a Prayer & Liturgy guide for all staff with regular CPD for all staff.	RE Lead and Prayer & Liturgy Lead	December 2025
To further develop child planning, leading and evaluation of liturgy including Celebrations of the Word and at Mass. Increase the range of hymns known/used by children.	SLT Class Teachers	March 2026

Appendix 6: Monitoring Forms

Prayer Life In The Classroom Audit

Staff and Governors

Date:

Class

Content	Response
<i>Who prepares the prayer table in your class?</i>	
<i>Who leads prayer in your class?</i>	
<i>What helps you to pray? What items do you for prayer in class?</i>	
<i>What examples could you share about prayer in class?</i>	
<i>Are there any ways you could improve prayer in your class?</i>	
<i>Why is the reflection area important? Why do we have one?</i>	
<i>How do we know what season of the liturgical year it is?</i>	

Additional Comments:

Celebrations of the Word Pupil Voice

Staff and Governors

Date:

Class:

Content	Response
<i>What is your opinion of Celebrations of the Word?</i>	
<i>Which Celebrations of the Word are the most enjoyable?</i>	
<i>What makes Celebrations of the Word interesting?</i>	
<i>Why do we have Celebrations of the Word altogether?</i>	
<i>What could we do to improve Celebrations of the Word?</i>	
<i>Who leads the Celebrations of the Word?</i>	
<i>How do we know what season of the liturgical year it is?</i>	
<i>Are you involved? How? Why?</i>	

Additional Comments:

Date:

Class:

Content	Yes or no	Other information
<i>Does the fabric on the reflection area reflect the liturgical season?</i>		
<i>Pictures</i>		
<i>Scripture</i>		
<i>Crucifix</i>		
<i>Candle</i>		
<i>Prayers</i>		
<i>Keys words/ SC / questions</i>		
<i>How can children interact with their reflection area? (‘Living’ display the children interact with.)</i>		
<i>What do you like about the reflection area?</i>		
<i>How could the reflection area be improved?</i>		

Additional Comments:

Completed by:

Date:

Key questions	Comments
<p><i>Tell me about your classroom Reflection Area.</i></p> <p><i>(Ask the Chaplaincy reps)</i></p>	
<p><i>How do children use your reflection area during the day?</i></p>	
<p><i>What prayers do you enjoy saying during class prayers?</i></p>	
<p><i>What sorts of prayers are in your class prayer book?</i></p>	
<p><i>Why have you got different coloured cloths on your Reflection Area?</i></p>	
<p><i>Who is in charge of the display?</i></p>	
<p><i>What is the school mission statement? Tell me what these words mean.</i></p>	
<p><i>Tell me about our Gospel Celebrations of the Word.</i></p>	

Additional Comments:

Date:

Theme:

Observer:

To be carried out alongside pupil conferencing of Celebrations of the Word

Content	Response
<i>How is the Celebrations of the Word received by the children?</i>	
<i>What is the attitude of the children towards Celebrations of the Word?</i>	
<i>Is Celebrations of the Word approached by all in a respectful way? (Are children invited to pray, rather than expected to? Are children respectful if they choose not to pray?)</i>	
<i>Is Celebrations of the Word engaging? How? Please include stimulus examples.</i>	
<i>What is the message/concept for the children to learn from?</i>	
<i>How do the children enter and leave Celebrations of the Word? Do children engage even though in class?</i>	
<i>How is prayer time reflective?</i>	
<i>Are children involved? How?</i>	

Additional Comments:

Celebrations of the Word

Observation by Children

Date:

Led by:

Theme:

Observers:

Content	Response
<i>How do the children enter the hall? (E.g. Are they respectful? Are they quiet?)</i>	
<i>How are people showing respect and reverence?</i>	
<i>Is Celebrations of the Word engaging and enjoyable? How?</i>	
<i>What is the message for the children to learn?</i>	
<i>How do the children show they understand what they are hearing?</i>	
<i>How is prayer time reflective?</i>	
<i>Are children involved? How?</i>	
<i>How do you think this Gospel Celebrations of the Word could be improved?</i>	

Additional Comments:

Monitoring: Prayer Questions for Staff

<p>1. Why do we pray with children? What do we want the outcome to be (and answer these questions as a staff from the 'heart')</p>	
<p>2. When do we as staff pray together? Do these gatherings incorporate a variety of methods and styles of prayer? Who 'models' and teaches staff how to pray?</p>	
<p>3. What opportunities are there for renewal and retreat experiences for all members of the community including governors?</p>	
<p>4. What help is given to staff to lead prayer with children in varying and appropriate ways?</p>	

The Seasons of the Liturgical Year



THE CHURCH'S LITURGICAL YEAR

Through the Church year Catholics celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Catholics celebrate feast days and saints. In the following pages you will discover a description of each season or feast and explanation of the appropriate liturgical colour. The recommended prayers the year groups at looking at in the *RED* are also included.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.

Advent is the season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered, and it is the season when we prepare for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, the season of Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation.

Liturgical Colour: Violet. Symbolises joyful waiting, renewal and expectation. Pink on Gaudete Sunday.

Display: Bible; Advent Wreath; Jesse Tree; a small plant or flower in bud to represent 'waiting' for the birth of Christ; an empty crib, images and/or cribs from around the world for EYFS RED. Images and/or of statues of Mary from around the world for Year 1 RED. The Szopki for the Year 2 RED.

Prayers

Year 9 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

Marian prayers, for example, the Hail Mary, the Magnificat in the Church's daily prayer, the Rosary, litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marian antiphons.

Year 8 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

One way in which the Church reflects on the importance of the prophetic texts in the Liturgy of the Church and/or popular devotions during Advent, for example:

- The Advent liturgical antiphons and responses in the divine office: The O Antiphons; the Rorate Coeli; the Benedictus
- Other popular Advent devotions: the Jesse tree, Advent wreaths, Advent calendars and candles

Year 7 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

One of the ways in which scripture is used in prayer, e.g.:

- Use of the psalms in prayer, e.g., the prayer of the Church (the divine office)
- Lectio Divina
- Ignatian contemplation: imaginative prayer
- the Jesus prayer
- Christian meditation
- the Rosary

Year 6 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

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 throne
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.*

Year 5 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Birth of Jesus, The Presentation, The Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple.

O antiphons

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

O Radiant Dawn,
splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death.

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!



Year 4 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

Nicene Creed

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

Year 3 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

Sleeping Joseph

“So, when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: pray for this problem!”

~Pope Francis

Use Sleeping Joseph sheet.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison; *Lord, have mercy;*

Christe eleison; *Christ, have mercy;*

Kyrie eleison. *Lord, have mercy.*

Year 2 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

Some words from 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.*

Year 1 RED Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

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.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will.

Advent Blessing

Christ be in our eyes and in our looking,
Christ be in our ears and in our listening,
Christ be in our hands and in our making,
Christ be in our minds and in our understanding,
Christ be in our hearts and in our loving,
Christ be in this season and in our joyful waiting.
Amen



THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

*Begins on Christmas day and **ends** on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*



Christmas is a season, not a day. There is so much preparation in society and shops before Christmas people do not always realise how long the season lasts. In this country the season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in some countries it ends on Candlemass. It is a season of true joy when we celebrate that 'God-is-with-us' – Emmanuel! The colour and vibrancy of our Christmas celebrations should celebrate a very deep part of ourselves that something has happened, that Christ is born, and the world will never be the same again.

Liturgical Colour: White or gold. Symbolises true joy and triumph.

Display: *Crib (but without the Wise Men until the Epiphany, they could begin their journey in another part of the school); holly and ivy.*

Prayers

St John the Evangelist 27th December

Lord Jesus,

You loved St John very much because he was a pure and holy young man. Give me a pure heart to love you.

Amen

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



This feast is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the 6th January

The Epiphany of the Lord is one of the greatest feasts in the Church's year and in many parts of the world it is celebrated as the most joyful day of Christmastime. The word 'epiphany' means 'showing'. We rejoice that the glory of God is shown to the whole world through the person of Jesus Christ. That glory is shown to the Magi who come from far away and followed the star to Bethlehem. The wise men are the first of many people who would seek Jesus and find him.

Liturgical Colour: White or gold. Symbolises true joy and triumph.

Display: Three wise men in crib with gifts; stars.

Prayer

Lord God of heaven and earth,
You revealed your Son, to every nation
by the light of a star.

Bless our school/classroom
And all who study and work here
and those who visit us.

Fill us with the light of Christ
that our love for one another
reflects your love for all peoples.
We pray for children everywhere.
Amen

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This feast is celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany



The feast of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season in the United Kingdom and prepares us to follow the teachings of Jesus and celebrate his life during the coming year. As Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan by John the Baptist the followers of John saw the heavens open, and the voice of God was heard. This voice invited all those who saw Jesus to listen to his message.

Liturgical Colour: White or gold Symbolises true joy and triumph

Display: *Bible; candle; water; picture/painting/mosaic of the baptism*



Ordinary Time

From the end of the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent).

For a few weeks in January and February, and then all through the summer and autumn, the Church is in Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the word "ordinal" and means "counted". In other words, each of the weeks has a number (for example, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time). During Ordinary Time the Sunday gospels follow Jesus from story to story in Matthew, Mark or Luke. Each of these gospels is read for one year in the church's three-year cycle of Sunday Mass readings. We also hear the various letters of Paul and others in the New Testament.

Liturgical Colour: Green Symbolises life and growth

Display: *Bible, candle, pictures of ordinary activities, Candlemass in Year 1, classes should be guided by the RED.*

Year 7 RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

How the Church prays her beliefs about the Holy Trinity in the Mass, for example:

- Sign of the cross in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (cf. CCC 233)
- Nicene Creed
- Sanctus: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy Lord’

Year 5 RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

The Luminous Mysteries

Christ’s Baptism in the Jordan, The Wedding feast at Cana, Christ’s Proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven, Christ’s Transfiguration, Christ’s Institution of the Eucharist.

Year 4 RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Year 3 RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

Our Father

*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.

Year 2 RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

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.

Our Father

Year 1 RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

Candlemass

Jesus, thank you for your light.

Thank you that your light shines in each of us.

Thank you that your light shines in (insert name)

God bless, (insert name)

God bless. (insert name)

When you have been round the whole group, all sit in silence and enjoy the light for a short while.

Close with:

Thank you, God, for your blessing.

Amen.

EYFS RED Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem

Glory Be

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.

St David 1st March

You chose to live a simple life, and helped others whose lives were simple not through choice but circumstances. Pray that I may consider my choices and live more simply in order to make a big difference to others. Show me the way to make small tasks occasions of prayer. Kindle in me a love of God so that in everything I do, I will keep that spirit of prayer.

St David, pray for us. Amen

LENT

Begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday in the evening

– approximately 6 weeks.



In the Christian Year, Lent prepares us for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth and a time for discerning and doing good. Traditionally we give more time to prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money given to the 'poor' or good causes). This helps us to say 'Yes' to God's will and 'No' to our selfish ways in order to become better followers of Jesus. The season begins by recalling the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert and prepared to proclaim the Good News.

Liturgical Colour: Purple, Symbolises penance. Pink on Laetare Sunday

Display: *Cross made out of branches and draped with a purple cloth; stones, sand and pebbles, sandals and footprints; bowl of flower bulbs or seeds; pot of bare twigs or branches. On Ash Wednesday a bowl of ashes could be added.*

Act of Contrition (From Year 2 upwards)

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 try not to sin again.

St Patrick 17th March

You loved those who had wronged you.

May I have the love to forgive those who have wronged me.

You returned to Ireland, to serve people who had enslaved you.

May I have the courage to trust God in situations that I have not planned. You learned about the culture of those you lived with. May I be open to learning from those around me whose backgrounds are different from mine.

St Patrick, pray for us.

Year 9 RED Branch 4 Desert to Garden

Agnus Dei

Year 5 RED Branch 4 Desert to Garden

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion.

Examen and Act of Contrition

Year 3 RED Branch 4 Desert to Garden

Responses to the Eucharistic Prayer

Year 2 RED Branch 4 Desert to Garden

Some prayers and actions that are ways in which Catholics turn back to God, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for example, a simple Examen or an act of sorrow and in the Penitential rite, for example, the Kyrie Eleison (Lord have Mercy).

Thank you for all that the day has been and for all God's gifts.

Sorry call to mind one or two moments of selfishness and acting without love for others.

Please These are some of the people and events that I want to pray for. This is what I ask for as I look towards tomorrow.

HOLY WEEK

For the Church, Holy Week is the 'greatest week' during which the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus is remembered in special celebrations.

On **PASSION SUNDAY** or **PALM SUNDAY** (because we bless palms and we hear the reading of the passion of Jesus), Christians celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to face his suffering and death. *If this day is remembered in school, then palms and other spring branches may be added to the Lenten display. One way to highlight the events of Holy Week is to use red cloth to give special honour to the cross.*

THE PASCHAL or EASTER TRIDUUM

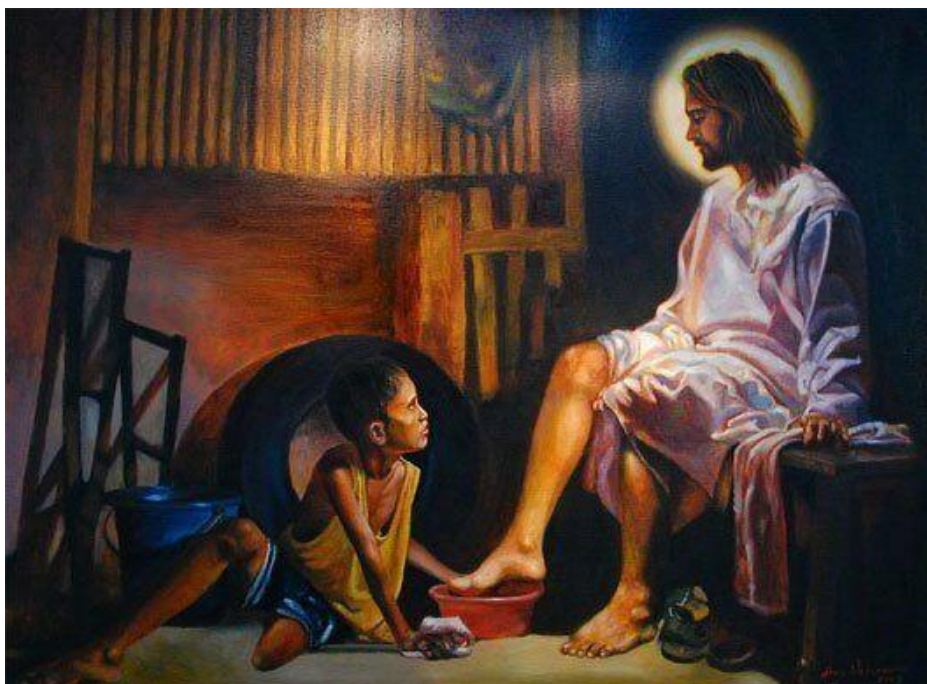
Begins on Holy Thursday in the evening ends on Easter Sunday in the evening. "Paschal Triduum" means "the Three Days of Passover". For the Jewish people, Passover celebrates the great event when God delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom. The followers of Jesus proclaim that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God has freed and saved us.

On the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, we keep the Easter Vigil. We gather to light a fire and a towering candle, to listen to our most treasured scriptures, to sing psalms and other songs. Then we go to the waters and baptise those who have been preparing for new life in Christ. The newly baptised are then anointed with fragrant oil and, at last, with these newly baptised, we celebrate the Eucharist. Catholics prepare for this Vigil in the washing of feet on Holy Thursday and in the veneration of the cross on Good Friday. They also prepare by fasting. The Church fasts – from food, from entertainment, from work – so that we have time to ponder deeply the death and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery of faith that we will celebrate in our Vigil.

HOLY THURSDAY

Liturgical Colour: White and Gold. Symbolises true joy and triumph

Display: *Bible opened at John 13; a cross; bowl and jug of water; white towel; sandals; picture of the washing of the feet by Seiger Koda or Joey Velsco as backdrop.*



GOOD FRIDAY

Liturgical Colour: Red, symbolises the bold of a martyr reminding us that Jesus died to save us.

Year 6 RED Branch 4 Desert to Garden

The Stations of the Cross

Jesus is condemned to Death

Jesus Carries his Cross

Jesus Falls for the First Time

Jesus Meets his Mother

Simon helps Jesus

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Jesus Falls the Second Time

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus Falls the Third Time

Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes

Jesus is Crucified

Jesus Dies

The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

The Body of Jesus is put in the Tomb



EASTER SEASON

Begins on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later on Pentecost Sunday.

Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Easter Season which lasts for 50 days. The Easter season is the heart of the Christian faith. We are an 'Easter People' and make "Alleluia" our song because we delight to praise the Lord who is raised from the dead and now shares his new life. The Paschal candle, the giant candle that is lighted during this season whenever we celebrate in church, shows that Jesus lives.

Liturgical Colour: White and gold Symbolises triumph and joy

Display: Large white candle; bowl of Easter water; 'Alleluia' banner; cross draped with a white or gold cloth; any symbols of new life e.g. eggs, spring flowers, butterflies etc.

St George 23rd April

With courage, you stood up to those in power, to tell them that what they were doing was wrong. Pray that we, too, may have courage to stand up for what is right, with God's help. You were not ashamed of your faith. Pray that we, too, may be proud of our faith, and may cheerfully show the love of Jesus in all that we do.

St George, pray for us.

Amen



Feasts of Mary

May & October:

Mary the Mother of God has a special place in the Church's seasons and feasts. For the Church, May is the month of Mary and in October Catholics are encouraged to pray the Rosary. There are also special feasts throughout the year and many local traditions and celebrations throughout the world. There are six major feasts the Church celebrates in honour of Mary.

January 1 st	Mary the Mother of God
March 25 th	The Annunciation
May 31 st	The Visitation
August 15 th	The Assumption (Holy Day of Obligation)
September 8 th	Mary's Birthday
December 8 th	The Immaculate Conception

Liturgical Colour: Blue and white are traditional colours for Mary.

Display: *Use some of the following: Icon – Mary Mother of Jesus; rosary, flowers, candles; bible opened at appropriate scripture passage*

Year 5 RED Branch 5 Ends of the Earth

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption, The Coronation.

Year 4 RED Branch 5 Ends of the Earth

Marian Prayers, Hail Mary, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Magnificat, Ave Maria

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

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.*



Pentecost

50 days (7 weeks) after Easter Sunday.

Pentecost is a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish 'feast of weeks' was held fifty days after the beginning of the grain harvest. It was a thanksgiving feast to celebrate the end of the harvest and to commemorate the day God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. At Pentecost the Church celebrates the fulfilment of Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will guide and



help his disciples to understand all that he has taught them. It is sometimes called the 'birthday' of the Church.

Liturgical Colour: Red, symbolises royalty, fire and martyrdom

Display: A picture of Pentecost/Holy Spirit; red flowers; bible opened at Acts 2:1-43; one large white candle surrounded by 12 smaller red ones.

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.

Year 2 RED Ends of the Earth

Come Holy Spirit

fill the hearts of Your faithful

and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your Spirit

and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Year 1 RED Ends of the Earth

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

Ordinary Time - Summer

From the end of Pentecost until Advent

All through the summer and autumn, the Church is in Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the word "ordinal" and means "counted". In other words, each of the weeks has a number (for example, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time). During Ordinary Time the Sunday gospels follow Jesus from story to story in Matthew, Mark or Luke. Each of these gospels is read for one year in the church's three-year cycle of Sunday Mass readings. We also hear the various letters of Paul and others in the New Testament.



Liturgical Colour: Green Symbolises life and growth

Display: Bible, candle, pictures of ordinary activities, classes should be guided by the RED.

Corpus Christi

Adoration

St Peter and St Paul

Lord,

When we think of the Church, we think of a building and the people in it. Help us to always remember St Peter and St Paul who helped to fill the Churches with your Word. Help us to be glad that we belong to your family, the Church.

Amen

Year 9 RED Ends of the Earth

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.

Year 6 RED Ends of the Earth

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.

Year 4 RED Ends of the Earth

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.*



Ordinary Time - Season of Creation

Liturgical Colour: Green Symbolises life and growth



Display: Bible, candle, globe, Noah's Ark in Year 2 RED, examples of creation in images etc

Leader: Let us give praise to God together-the response is Bless the Lord

Leader: Sun and moon

Response: Bless the Lord

Leader: Stars of heaven, Response: Bless the Lord.

Leader: Every shower and dew, Response: Bless the Lord.

Leader: All you winds, Response: Bless the Lord.

Leader: Fire and heat, Response: Bless the Lord.

Leader: Frost and chill, Response: Bless the Lord.

Leader: Lightning and clouds, Response: Bless the Lord.

Leader: All you sons and daughters, Response: Bless the Lord. Leader: Let all the earth bless the Lord.

Amen

Day of Peace, September

May today there be peace within.

*May you trust that you are exactly
where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities
that are born of faith in yourself and others.
May you use the gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content with yourself
just the way you are.
Let this knowledge settle into your bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing,
dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.
~~ St. Therese of Lisieux*

St Teresa of Avila 15th October (not in the Season of Creation)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours,
No feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which is to look out Christ's compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless people now.
Amen

Year 6 RED Ends of the Earth

Nicene Creed

Year 5 and 4 RED Ends of the Earth

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.*

Year 4 RED Ends of the Earth

May today there be peace within.

St. Therese of Lisieux (see above)

Mission of my Life, John Henry Newman

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.



If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.
Amen.

Blessed Charles de Foucauld – Prayer of Abandonment

*Father, I abandon myself into your hands, do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me and in all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands, I commend my soul;
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart;
For I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself:
To surrender myself into your hands without reserve and with boundless confidence. For you are my Father.'*
Amen

Year 3 RED Ends of the Earth

CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES by St Francis

A Prayer for our Earth from Laudato Si
All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.



Year 1 RED Ends of the Earth

Nicene Creed

*I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,*

*maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.*

Our Father

*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.*

EYFS RED Ends of the Earth

The Sign of the Cross

*In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

November - The Month of Remembrance - including the celebration of 'All Souls'



Liturgical Colour: White (Resurrection) or black or violet (for mourning)

November is still in Ordinary time but as the school focus in November will be praying for those who have died, then in school it is practical and valid to keep the liturgical colour for All Souls on display for the month.

Display: *Paschal Candle, white cloth, for Remembrance a red, black or violet cloth, photographs of relatives, Poppies and a Poppy wreath.*

Eternal Rest

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

For all who have served the cause of peace
In our armed forces,
For all who have lost loved ones due to war,
For all who continue to suffer due to war,
For all who long for peace,
For all who dedicate their lives to bring
peace to the world,
For all who bring comfort to veterans
and their families,
For all of us called to be messengers of Your
Peace.

Amen

Lord, bring peace to our world.

Lord, bring an end to violence and hatred.

Lord, help us to live as brothers and sisters in one beautiful world.

Lord, let peace begin with me.

Amen