



SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School *Prayer and Liturgy Policy*



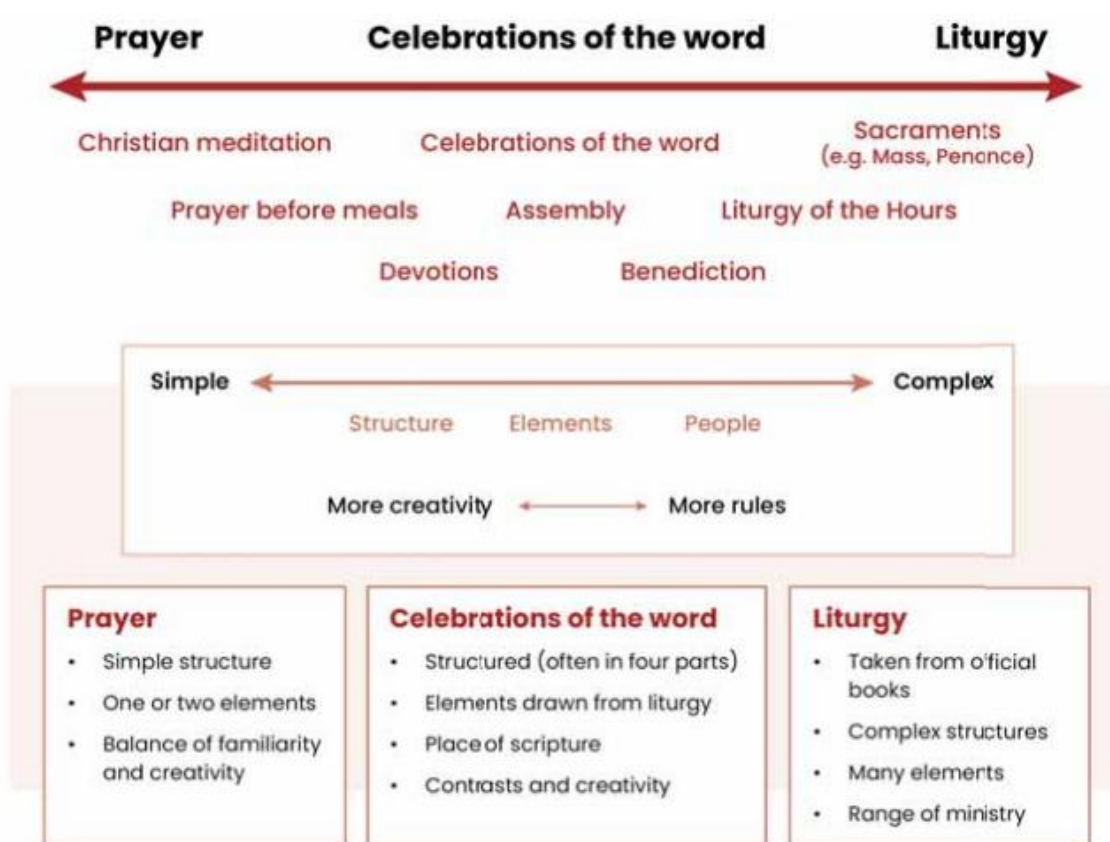
Introduction

Understanding Prayer and Liturgy

In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration and its content.

Definition of Terms

Prayer, Celebration of the word, and Liturgy form a continuum with silent meditation at one end and a celebration of Mass on a Solemnity of the Church (e.g. Ascension of the Lord) at the other. Of course, there are areas of overlap between the categories.



In Catholic terminology 'worship' is not generally used to name and describe a distinct type of prayer or event. Worship is about living our lives in a way that recognises that everything we have is a gift from God and that everything we do gives glory to God. That, of course, does include prayer but the scope is broader. With that understanding of worship it will be seen that the purpose of education in a Catholic school is to know and love Christ and to open the vision and imagination of all pupils to the wonder of living in God's world, and the responsibilities that follow from this.

SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

"Let our light shine."

Taken from Matthew's gospel - Jesus Christ said,

**"Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."
(Matt.5:16)**

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in our school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is time to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹ Each day, we take time to gather, listen, respond and go forth with a message from the Lord.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship offered for all pupils (taking place at any time during the school day and can be either a single 'act of worship' for all pupils, or separate 'acts of worship' in school groups). We understand that holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. Prayer, liturgical prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between will always be made clear.

The 'act of worship' is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

We acknowledge that parents/carers have a right to withdraw their child from 'Prayer and Liturgy'. However, given the importance of it within our Catholic school, parents and prospective parents are 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, within the RE curriculum.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2012

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St. Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

In our school, daily prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition. Prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all whom participate:

- Those who are part of a worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church;
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It is a positive experience and a time of reflection when all who can contribute and engage.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and liturgy in SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God and to give honour, praise and thanks to Him
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To develop skills of: reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy and meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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

All acts of prayer in SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead prayer times;
- Give the children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.²

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered that will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Why have Prayer and Liturgy?

Prayer and liturgy provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.

At SSPP prayer and liturgy is a time to:

- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- Reflect on personal belief.
- Respond to and celebrate life.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Wonder at.
- Give worth to.
- Take time out.
- Encourage a common ethos and shared values.
- Develop community spirit.
- Enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- Contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Build a firm foundation for liturgy.

Prayer and Liturgy - who?

- The Head teacher's role is to ensure that prayer and liturgy is provided for each child each day.
- Pupils must have the opportunity to take part, plan and lead daily prayer and liturgy.
- Teachers plan and enable prayer and liturgy to take place each day.
- Governors approve the Policy statement for Prayer and Liturgy
- Parents Parish and parents are invited to participate in prayer and liturgy and some celebrations.

Where does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

- In the classroom
- In the school hall
- In Church
- In the school grounds
- **At designated prayer stops**

When does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

At SSPP prayer and liturgy may take place:

- At the beginning of the day, before break or after lunch.
- At an appropriate time of day according to each class's need as indicated on timetables.

How does Prayer and Liturgy take place?

Planning

At SSPP Prayer and Liturgy is planned with reference to the Church's seasons (liturgical calendar), Mark 10 Mission, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Jubilee Pledge Day. It is planned through consultation with appropriate parties and reference to the school's aims and policies. It is planned with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.

At SSPP we realise that every child must have an opportunity to take part in prayer and liturgy every day. We aim to provide every child with a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors.
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or a short address.
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age, range, backgrounds and ability of pupils.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- Can be offered for a class, year group, a key stage or whole school.
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting.
- Respect the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and liturgy.
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Prayer and Liturgy at SSPP follows the following liturgical structure:

Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment.

Listen - the Word of God is proclaimed

Respond - the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action

Go Forth - giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Recording

At SSPP we record prayer and liturgy in our class Engage and Respond floor books which can include QR codes for a linked video, samples of pupils' work and reflections. We also record it through displays, prayers, photographs. Themes, leaders, pupil grouping and resources are recorded on a prayer and liturgy planner.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Child-led Prayer and liturgy is peer evaluated and recorded on the planning sheet.

Prayer and liturgy is evaluated regularly through observation, monitoring of planning and self-evaluation. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the school's CSED (Catholic Schools Evaluation Document).

Prayer and Liturgy Timetable

Day	Prayer/Liturgical prayer	Time
Monday	Whole school liturgical prayer led by HT following the Ten: Ten Sunday gospel or pertinent liturgical theme of the week.	10:10 20 minutes
Tuesday	Learning for Life to be delivered in Key Stages so the theme can be delivered at a more age-appropriate level - includes prayer centred around social teaching or a specific saint	10:15 15 minutes
Wednesday	Wednesday worship Worship through uplifting singing and prayer, giving thanks and praise for all God has given us.	10-15 minutes Timetabled by class teacher
Thursday	EYFS & KS1 prayer / Pupil led class liturgical prayer Pupil led worship led by groups on a rota basis (KS2) Little Liturgies Worship (EY&KS1) is based on the Sunday Gospel or key liturgical themes.	10:15 15 minutes
Friday	Whole school Good Mentions Class teachers celebrate children's achievements, offering their good deeds and work to God in a collective act of worship. Worship through uplifting singing and prayer, giving thanks and praise for all God has given us.	10:05 25 minutes

Leading Prayer and Liturgy

As faith leaders of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy, with the Deputy Headteacher. The class teachers will lead a class prayer and liturgy each week. As children progress through school they are taught to plan and lead prayer times and according to their age include various prayers as per the 'Annual Plan of Provision'.

Resources

The school has a wide variety of resources which support the delivery of Prayer and Liturgy. They are mainly stored within classrooms; however other resources are also stored in the Head Teacher's office and the Deputy Headteacher's classroom.

Requests for new resources need to be emailed to the DH in a timely fashion (3 week turn around) to ensure that resources arrive in time.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part of our Prayer and Liturgy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the community and Parish community are encouraged to attend. The celebrations will take the following forms: - Whole school & class masses in church - Class masses in school - Whole school masses for the specific days in the school calendar and celebrations such as Saints Days and Holy Days of Obligation

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference each year groups specific topic. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

The Leader of Prayer and Liturgy

Mrs G Roberts (Deputy Headteacher) is the named lead for Prayer and Liturgy, supported by Miss S Staniforth (Headteacher) and Mrs C Hughes-Harvey (Previous RE Lead). A model job description is also included in Appendix 1.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Appendix 1

The Role of the Leader of Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for prayer times
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities regarding prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the church Deacon
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development and ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently