



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2025-26

Vision:

We believe that every child is a gift from God, therefore, we aim to provide an outstanding and happy Catholic education which develops the 'whole child' whilst enabling them to reach their full potential.

Mission statement:

We love God ... so we follow the examples of Jesus

We love learning ... so we always do our very best in everything

We love each other ... so we treat each other as we want to be treated

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the Governing Board in Sep 2025 on and will be reviewed in September 2026.

Signed: T. Cragg Chair of Governors and Carmel Ruane Headteacher

1. The Context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

‘The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.’ (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23).

2. Statement of Requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2)

Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019)

The law requires all maintained schools recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)).

The school’s provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils’ entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar. Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

3. Responsibility

(a) Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school’s life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

(b) Headteacher

- The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:
- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
 - they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
 - those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
 - there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (See section 4)
 - there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments (Appendices – see our Annual Plan of Provision – <https://www.stmaryslittleborough.stoccat.org.uk/catholic-life/religious-education/#1773306971108-20a88eda-c1f9>)
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation (See APOP - Prayer Progression Document)
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy Provision

Celebration of the Word at St. Mary's

We use a range of resources to ensure we make our 'Celebration of the Word' as rich and meaningful as possible for our children; whilst keeping to the correct teaching from the 'Prayer and Liturgy' guidance. We follow the liturgical year and as much as possible, the Gospel reading from each Sunday.

We work closely with The Education Team at Salford Diocese – see their suggested Calendar for 2025-26 which helps to frame the years prayer and events –

We use the following range of resources for Celebration of the Word:

- Salford Diocese Education team provide weekly power points – <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/resource-centre/education/collective-worship>
- See the planning sheet provided by Salford Diocese – at the end of this document
- Wednesday Word – ‘Sharing Sundays Gospel with School, parents and families’ The Wednesday Word is a weekly, Catholic-focused resource designed to help families, especially those with children in primary school, engage with the upcoming Sunday Gospel. It provides a free online resource containing reflections, prayers, and activities to encourage faith conversations at home. Each edition focuses on a specific "word" or theme inspired by the Sunday Gospel. <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>
- Mark Ten - The Mark 10 Mission is a project created to share the Gospel with school children and lead them to encounter Jesus in a powerful and personal way. The team at The Mark 10 Mission create 15-minute virtual liturgies to share the Sunday Gospel each week. We know that every time we stop to pray, God is waiting to meet us. The Mark 10 Mission creates content which engages children in prayer and leads them into deep personal encounter with God. Little Liturgies are watched by Reception and Key Stage 1; Key Stage 2 enjoy The Mark 10 Mission. This sort of prayer changes everything! Each liturgy contains a Gospel reading, a short reflection, guided prayer time and a worship song. <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk>

We follow all the suggested prayers from the Prayer and Liturgy Directory and in line with the suggested progression guidance (see prayer progression grids links below and within our APOP).

We also have our own school specific prayers:

Grace before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, as we sit together. Bless the food we eat today. Bless the hands that made the food. Bless us O God. Amen.

Grace after Meals

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten. Thank you, God, for all our friends. Thank you, God, for everything. Thank you, God. Amen.

Morning Prayer:

Father in Heaven, you love me, You're with me night and day. I want to love you always in all I do and say. I'll try to please you Father, Bless me through the day. Amen.

Evening Prayer:

God our Father, I come to say, Thank you for your love today. Thank you for my family, and all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night, and in the morning send your light.

- See link to suggested prayers to cover throughout Primary School (from Prayer and Liturgy directory) – <https://www.stmaryslittleborough.stoccat.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2026/03/common-prayers-from-the-Prayer-and-Liturgy-directory.pdf>

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

6. Training and formation

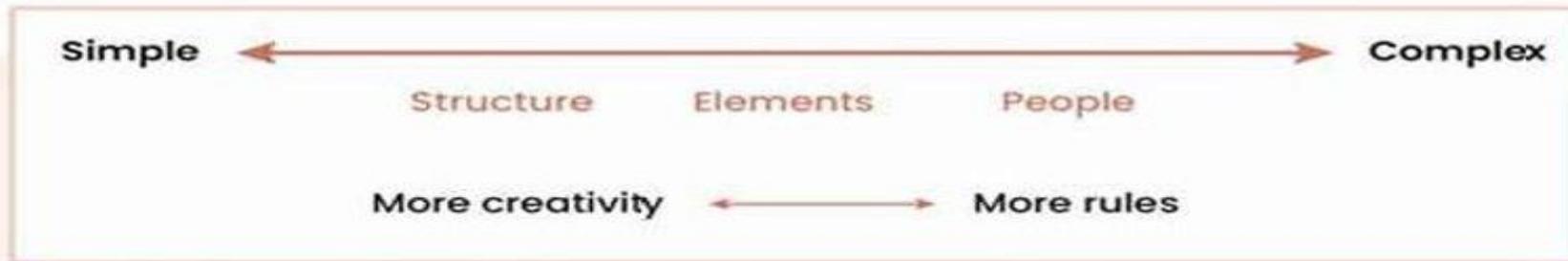
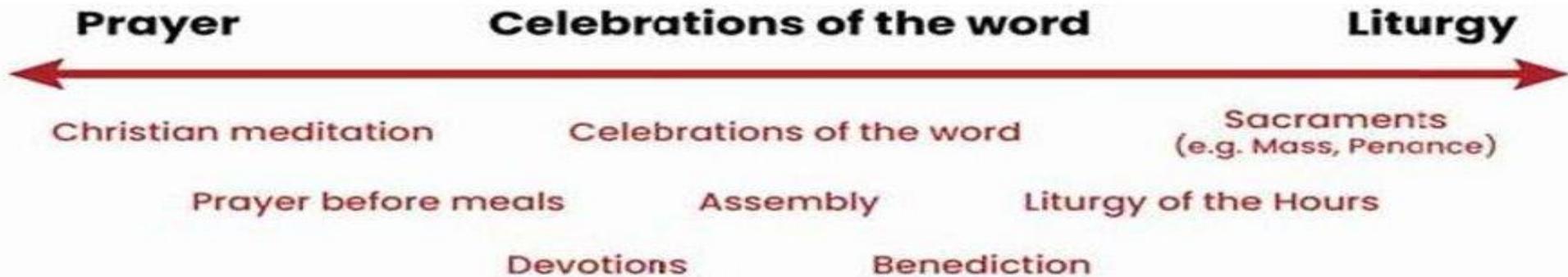
All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will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

7. Monitoring and evaluation

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

Appendices:

See extracts below from our Annual Plan of Provision (APOP) 2025-26



- Prayer**
- Simple structure
 - One or two elements
 - Balance of familiarity and creativity

- Celebrations of the word**
- Structured (often in four parts)
 - Elements drawn from liturgy
 - Place of scripture
 - Contrasts and creativity

- Liturgy**
- Taken from official books
 - Complex structures
 - Many elements
 - Range of ministry

Weekly Timetable for prayer, Celebration of the Word and mass

Day	Celebration of the Word	Led by:
Monday	Weekly Statement to live by is introduced and shared in each class	GIFT Team/Mrs Rennie
Tuesday	Celebration of Word in classes or phases (alternate each week)	Teaching Staff and pupils
Tuesday	Whole school hymn practice alternate weeks	Mrs Ruane and Mrs Heyes
Wednesday	Class or whole school mass	Teaching Staff and pupils
Thursday	Celebration of Word in classes or phases (alternate each week)	Teaching Staff and pupils
Friday	Whole school Celebration of the Word (links with liturgical year/weekly Gospel reading) followed by Celebration Assembly (celebrations, singing)	Mrs Ruane and Head Boy and Girl/Deputies
Friday	All staff come together for staff prayers	Mrs Ruane
Every class begins the day with prayers, prayers before and after lunch, and at the end of the day. RE lessons often involve time for reflection and opportunities for spontaneous prayer are encouraged and embraced		

WHOLE SCHOOL PRAYER & LITURGY YEARLY OVERVIEW

N.B. Where Holy Days fall on a Sunday, the whole school will attend mass the Wednesday before or afterwards. If it falls within a holiday a Celebration of the Word will cover this theme.

	WHOLE SCHOOL MASSES, with Eucharist	Class masses with Eucharist	SACRAMENTS	SERVICES/other celebrations	OTHER PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES
SEPTEMBER	Welcome Mass (focus on the new school year)	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		New GIFT team commissioning service	
OCTOBER	Whole school Harvest mass Whole school Rosary mass	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		Harvest presentation of gifts for Food bank	Whole school Rosary and daily/weekly in KS2 GIFT Team lead Rosary prayer sessions at lunch time GIFT team lead Harvest foodbank collection and prayer services
	<p>In October, at St Mary’s School, we celebrate the month of the Rosary. The children learn about the Rosary, and how and why we pray it as we do. Each class follows this plan to ensure progression throughout the school:</p> <p>Year 1 – Basic introduction to the Rosary / Hail Mary Prayer – learn and understand that Mary said it is a special prayer</p> <p>Year 2 – As Year 1 – to look the 4 mysteries and identify them (basic knowledge)</p> <p>Year 3 – As Year 2 – link to our positive emotions.</p> <p>Year 4 – Focus on the 4 mysteries as Year 3 but in depth focus on Glorious Mysteries</p> <p>Year 5 - Focus on the 4 mysteries as Year 3 but in depth focus on Luminous Mysteries</p> <p>Year 6 – In depth study of all the mysteries</p>				
NOVEMBER	Whole school All Saints/All Souls Day Whole school Remembrance mass	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel	Start of Sacramental Programme – see dates below	Whole school Remembrance service/assembly Year 3 Sacramental Programme begins – Sunday welcome mass for families	Eternal rest said daily Individual prayer petitions (for lost loved ones) in envelopes for whole school mass and Celebration of Word

DECEMBER	Whole school Advent/Christmas mass	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		3/4 Carol Service – ‘Carols around the tree’	GIFT team lead Advent prayers and Christingle
JANUARY	Whole school welcome back mass – new year focus	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel			Whole school Spanish day/Celebration links with Epiphany/3 Kings Day as major feast day in Spain
FEBRUARY	Whole school Ash Wednesday mass and receiving of ashes	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		Year 2 St Valentines/theme of love assembly Year 3 Sacramental Programme meetings and mass for parents/families	
MARCH		Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel	Year 3 First Reconciliation	EYFS Mother’s Day/Mary our Mother Assembly Year 3 Reconciliation themed assembly	GIFT Team lead Stations of the cross (in the peace gardens)
APRIL	Whole school Holy Week mass	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		Year 5 Easter Assembly Year 3 Sacramental Programme meetings and mass for parents/families	
MAY	Whole school ‘May is the month of Mary’ Mass and crowing of Mary in church	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		Whole school crowning of Mary – and all children present flowers to Mary	GIFT Team lead Mary themed prayer sessions

	Whole school Ascension mass (if in school)			Year 4 class assembly – Mary our Mother	
JUNE	Whole school SS Peter and Paul mass Whole school Pentecost mass/celebration (if in school) Whole school Corpus Christi mass	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel	Year 3 First Holy Communion	Year 3 First Holy Communion assembly Year 1 Father’s Day/God Our Father themed assembly	
JULY	Mass of Thanksgiving/end of year	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		Year 6 leavers day end of year assembly/reflection	

