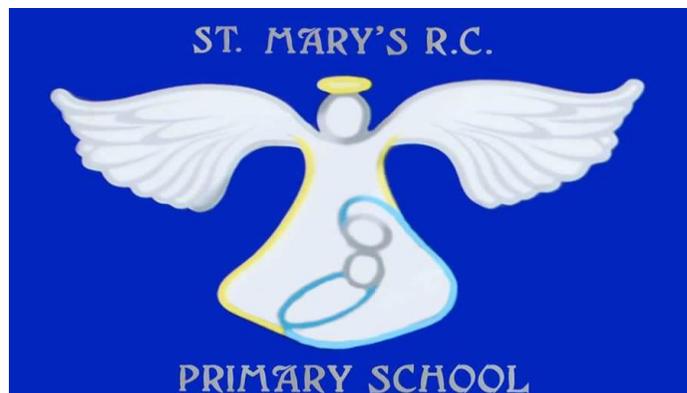


# St Mary's RC Primary School

Annual Plan of Provision

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

**Prayer and liturgy at St. Mary's RC Primary School**

**Prayer and Liturgy** is our response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

At St Mary's RC Primary School, Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of the life of the school. It celebrates God's presence in our lives and is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It gives children the opportunity to 'Live the Faith', as well as to learn from it. We gather as a community to listen to the teachings of the Faith, pray and reflect on our own lives.

As we introduce the new Prayer and Liturgy directory, this guidance will offer support for staff, parents and pupils to enable them to understand and engage with prayer and liturgy in our very special school community. It will be reviewed and updated regularly

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



Everyday	Every week	Every term	Every year
Daily prayer – beginning and end, before and after meals.			
Celebrations of the Word			
Mass			
Sacrament of Reconciliation			
Other liturgies and devotions			

**Weekly Timetable for prayer, Celebration of the Word and mass**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Celebration of the Word</b>	<b>Led by:</b>
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.

	<b>WHOLE SCHOOL MASSES, with Eucharist</b>	<b>Class masses with Eucharist</b>	<b>SACRAMENTS</b>	<b>SERVICES/other celebrations</b>	<b>OTHER PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Welcome Mass</b> (focus on the new school year)	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		New GIFT team commissioning service	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	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>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	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

<b>DECEMBER</b>	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
<b>JANUARY</b>	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
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	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	
<b>MARCH</b>		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)
<b>APRIL</b>	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	
<b>MAY</b>	Whole school ‘May is the month of Mary’ Mass and crowing of Mary in church  Whole school Ascension mass (if in school)	Class masses – link with liturgical year and Sunday Gospel		Whole school crowning of Mary – and all children present flowers to Mary  Year 4 class assembly – Mary our Mother	GIFT Team lead Mary themed prayer sessions

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

### **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 –

<https://www.stmaryslittleborough.stoccat.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2026/03/Calendar-2025-2026.pdf>

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 at the end of this document). 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>

**Liturgy of the Mass:**

**See list of masses from 2024-25. The dates and themes are similar each year**

**Autumn term:**

11th Sep - whole school mass - new school year  
18th Sep - Year 6 - St. Matthew  
25th Sep - Year 4 - gift of love  
2nd Oct - Year 3 - Thankyou/Harvest  
9th Oct - whole school mass - Harvest/Rosary  
16th Oct - Year 5 - Rosary  
23rd Oct - Year 6 - Our family  
Half term  
6th Nov - whole school mass - All Saints/All Souls  
13th Nov - Year 1/2 - Holy Souls/Remembrance  
20th Nov - Year 5 - St Andrew  
27th Nov - Year 3 - Christ the King  
4th Dec - Year 6 - Advent  
11th Dec - Year 4 - Advent  
18th Dec - whole school mass - Advent/Christmas

**Spring term 2025:**

8<sup>th</sup> Jan - no mass  
15<sup>th</sup> Jan - whole school - new year/beginnings  
22<sup>nd</sup> Jan - Year 6 - Following Jesus  
29<sup>th</sup> Jan - Year 4 - Spread the Good News  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb - Year 5 - Jesus' mission'  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Year 3 – St Valentine/theme of love

Half term

26<sup>th</sup> February - Year 6 - Follow Me

5<sup>th</sup> March - Whole school - Ash Wednesday

12<sup>th</sup> March - Year 3 - Reconciliation theme/Zacchaeus (Reconciliation on 13<sup>th</sup> March)

19<sup>th</sup> March - Year 5 'St Patrick'

26<sup>th</sup> March - whole school mass - Annunciation (our school feast day)

2<sup>nd</sup> April - Year 4 - Lent Giving to others

9<sup>th</sup> April - Year 1/2 -The Prodigal Son

16<sup>th</sup> April - whole school mass - Easter

**Summer term 2025**

30<sup>th</sup> April - no mass

7<sup>th</sup> May - whole school mass - Crowning of Mary procession

15<sup>th</sup> May - no mass as SATS week

21<sup>st</sup> May - Year 5 - Ascension

Half term

11<sup>th</sup> June - whole school mass - Pentecost

18<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 (First Communion)

25<sup>th</sup> June - whole school - SS Peter and Paul

2<sup>nd</sup> July - Year 4 - Jesus sends his Disciples out

9<sup>th</sup> July - Year 1 and 2 - Love one another as I have loved you

16<sup>th</sup> July - whole school end of year/Leavers mass (Year 6 to lead)

**At St Mary's, we absolutely love to sing hymns. St Augustine said; 'He who sings prays twice' We have regular hymn practice and then sing together in weekly assemblies and mass.**

**Hymns our children love to sing!**

Christ be our light (Longing for light)  
Shine Jesus shine  
God's spirit is in my heart  
A new commandment  
One more step  
He's got the whole world  
Sing it in the valleys  
Give me joy in my heart  
Gloria  
If I were a butterfly  
Magic penny  
When I needed a neighbour  
Our God is a great big God  
How great is our God  
Jesus loves me this I know (Yes Jesus loves me)  
You shall go out with joy  
This is my body  
In the love of God and neighbour  
In bread we bring you Lord  
Faith as small as a mustard seed  
Here I am Lord  
Thank you Lord (right where you are)  
Jesus' hands are kind hands  
Thank you, God for this new day  
Oh Lord hear my prayer  
Jesus remember me  
Father we adore you  
From heaven you came (The Servant King)  
Sing it in the valleys

Mustard Seed  
I give my hands  
Blest are you Lord God of all creation  
Father I place into your hands

Holy Virgin by God's decree  
Bring flowers of the rarest  
As I kneel before you  
Magnificat

## **Sacramental Programme in Year 3 - 2025-26**

The Sacramental Programme is facilitated by the school staff. The Sacramental programme consists of religious instruction and celebrations for parents and their children (Year 3 or older in some cases) in preparation for receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The Sacramental Programme is the means by which baptised children can make their own personal commitment to God and continue on their spiritual journeys on their way to completing their journey into full membership of the Catholic Church. The programme itself strives to help them grow into this community and feel a real sense of belonging to the wider Family of God. The programme involves partnership between the parish, the home and school. Each part of the programme is important, as it forms a part of the child's experience of God which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. We hope this will be a very positive experience, and we trust that parents will support them at every step of the journey. Parents made a commitment when they presented their children for Baptism to support them and help them make sense of our Faith as they grew old enough to understand more and in enrolling their child to be prepared for receiving the sacraments parents and carers need to recognise the importance of giving the full programme their full support.

### **Dates for this coming year 2025-26**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November - introductory mass/welcome for families

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February - meeting for parents and then expected to attend mass on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February (9.30am St Partick's or 11.15am St Mary's)

10<sup>th</sup> March - Reconciliation themed Assembly in school at 9.10am

11<sup>th</sup> March Year 3 Class mass 'Reconciliation theme'

11<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm in church – Sacrament of Reconciliation

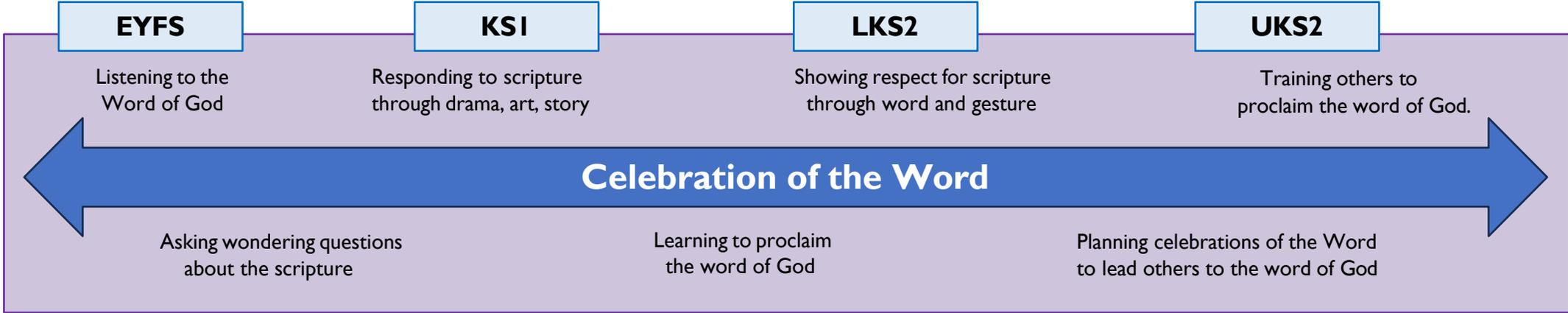
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - meeting for parents then expected to attend mass on 26<sup>th</sup> April (9.30am St Partick's or 11.15am St Mary's)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June - Class mass First Holy Communion themed - families welcome to attend

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June - First Holy Communion themed assembly for parents/families to attend

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June - First Holy Communion at church at 11.15am mass

# Prayer Progression



### Early Years Foundation Stage

Prayer				
Sacred Space	Words	Gestures	Senses	Prayers of the Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give the children access to some limited choices of the correct liturgical colour cloth, candles, crucifixes and relevant statues etc.</li> <li>• Invite them to make some choices to set up a sacred focus for their prayer.</li> <li>• Encourage them to think about and begin to explain their choices.</li> <li>• Model and support them in how they might be arranged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach the children some age-appropriate prayers and invite them to join in with them and – as confidence grows – begin to lead them with support.</li> <li>• Using sentence starters to guide them – invite them to spontaneous prayer e.g. ‘I thank God for ...’ inviting them to finish the prayer with individual responses-(see RED)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach the children to make the sign of the cross correctly - (see RED). Invite them to make it to mark the beginning and end of prayer.</li> <li>• Teach them to be still and silent for short periods of time – modelling the role that stillness and listening plays in prayer.</li> <li>• Invite them to place their hands in a prayerful way – modelling – to mark that they are lifting hearts and minds to God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give the children some limited choices of things that could aid them in deepening their prayer engagements e.g. sacred artwork, relevant songs or music choices to aid reflection,</li> <li>• Invite them to choose objects to hold to focus their hearts and minds when praying – e.g. holding cross or prayer pebble.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sign of the Cross</li> <li>• School Prayer</li> <li>• The Lord’s Prayer</li> <li>• The Hail Mary</li> </ul>
Celebration of the Word				
Sacred Space	Scripture	Response	Gesture and Posture	Going Forth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model and jointly set up a prayer focus area with the children.</li> <li>• Model and explain the colour of the liturgical cloth</li> <li>• Model and explain any artwork or music chosen to aid their understanding of the scripture</li> <li>• Light a candle and explain how this reminds us of Christ’s presence Invite the children to share how these objects help them to think about the scripture words.</li> <li>• Think about using different spaces to the normal learning input e.g. facing a different way to aid understanding that this is a different way of listening.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All scripture should be read directly from the Bible.</li> <li>• The Bible should have a special place in the EYFS classroom</li> <li>• Children could solemnly collect and bring the Bible to be read as part of the liturgy.</li> <li>• Scripture should be read and shared by the adult – modelling reverence and showing the special nature of the words.</li> <li>• Choose and read scripture from a Catholic children’s Bible – possibly linked to Sunday Gospel.</li> <li>• Possibly choose to read just one age-appropriate part of the Gospel to read and reflect on with the children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After sharing the scripture- or key words or lines from the scripture – invite the children to wonder about it.</li> <li>• Model wondering questions to engage the children in understanding that this is the word of God – speaking directly to them this day.</li> <li>• What does it make them think about?</li> <li>• How does it make them feel?</li> <li>• Invite children to pose wondering questions about what they have heard.</li> <li>• Share artwork or music to aid reflection and thinking time</li> <li>• Model and encourage times of silence to wonder and think</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When reading from the scripture, ensure you open and close the reading with the appropriate introductions and responses.</li> <li>• Expect, model and reinforce silence and listening postures when the hearing scripture words.</li> <li>• Invite the children to share which postures help them to listen and think about the words – e.g. they may want to stand or face a certain way.</li> <li>• Invite feedback from them – “What helped me to listen and wonder today?”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the Bible open and displayed in the classroom to invite further thinking.</li> <li>• Pose a wondering question linked to the scripture for them to think about across the week</li> <li>• Have some way of displaying and returning to this across the week – e.g. wondering woodpecker posing a question</li> <li>• Invite children to respond to the scripture across continuous provision e.g. drawing, small world etc.</li> </ul>

## Key Stage 1 – Years 1 and 2

Prayer				
Sacred Space	Words	Gestures	Senses	Prayers of the Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give the children access to a choice of the liturgical colour cloths and invite them, with support, to choose the correct one for the liturgical season. Invite them to explain their choice.</li> <li>Give them a choice of a selection of candles, crucifixes and relevant statues etc. and invite them to make some choices to set up a sacred focus for their prayer.</li> <li>Invite them to explain their choices with support.</li> <li>Invite them to make choices in how they might be arranged and explain their choices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teach the children some age-appropriate prayers and invite them to join in with them and – as confidence grows – begin to lead them with support.</li> <li>Using sentence starters to guide them – invite them to spontaneous prayer e.g. 'I thank God for ...' inviting them to finish the prayer with individual responses</li> <li>Begin to give them opportunities to make up and say or write their own spontaneous prayers.</li> <li>Invite them to choose and share prayers from appropriate prayer books.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the children to make the sign of the cross to mark the beginning and end of prayer.</li> <li>Invite children to lead others in making the Sign of the Cross.</li> <li>Invite them to be still and silent for short periods of time – inviting them to explain the role that stillness and listening plays in prayer.</li> <li>Invite them to place their hands in a prayerful way – modelling – to mark that they are lifting hearts and minds to God.</li> <li>Invite them to think about and suggest ways that they might like to be (standing, kneeling, sitting etc) to help them to focus on God.</li> <li>Invite them to reflect on how these actions and gestures helped them to lift their hearts and minds to God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give the children a wider choice of things that could aid them in deepening their prayer engagements e.g. sacred artwork, relevant songs or music choices to aid reflection linked to the liturgical season.</li> <li>You could have a senses box for them to choose things from – e.g. relevant art, statues, sacramentals, godly play objects – ensure the choices are appropriate for the liturgical season and rotated and updated often</li> <li>Invite them to choose objects to hold to focus their hearts and minds when praying – e.g. holding cross or prayer pebble.</li> <li>Invite them to explain their choices.</li> <li>Invite them to reflect on how these things helped them after prayer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glory be</li> <li>Grace before meals</li> <li>Grace after meals</li> </ul>
Celebration of the Word				
Sacred Space	Scripture	Response	Gesture and Posture	Going Forth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the children to set up a prayer focus area for the liturgy themselves.</li> <li>Invite them to choose the correct liturgical cloth – with support.</li> <li>Give them a choice of images or objects to add to the area – linked to the scripture – to choose from.</li> <li>Support the children to light a candle and invite them to explain how this reminds us of Christ's presence</li> <li>Invite the children to share how these objects help them to think about the scripture words.</li> <li>Invite the children to think about and suggest using different ways to sit or places to have the liturgy - to involve them in thinking about which places can help us to feel close to God.</li> <li>Invite them to explain their choices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All scripture should be read directly from the Bible.</li> <li>The Bible should have a special place in the Year 1 classroom</li> <li>Invite the children to process across the classroom with the Bible to bring it to be read as part of the liturgy.</li> <li>At this age scripture should be read and shared by the adult – modelling reverence and showing the special nature of the words.</li> <li>At this age the adult should select and read scripture from a Catholic children's Bible – possibly linked to Sunday Gospel.</li> <li>Possibly choose to read just one age-appropriate part of the Gospel to read and reflect on with the children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After sharing the scripture- or key words or lines from the scripture – invite the children to wonder about it.</li> <li>Model wondering questions to engage the children in understanding that this is the word of God – speaking directly to them this day.</li> <li>What does it make them think about?</li> <li>How does it make them feel?</li> <li>Invite children to pose wondering questions about what they have heard.</li> <li>Share artwork or music to aid reflection and thinking time</li> <li>Consider singing an appropriate hymn or praise song linked to the scripture and invite children to reflect on how it helped them to think about the scripture.</li> <li>Model and encourage times of silence to wonder and think</li> <li>When appropriate the children could act out part of the Scripture story with adult support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When reading from the scripture, ensure you open and close the reading with the appropriate introductions and responses.</li> <li>Expect, model and reinforce silence and listening postures when the hearing scripture words.</li> <li>Invite the children to share which postures help them to listen and think about the words – e.g. they may want to stand for Gospel readings.</li> <li>Invite feedback from them – “What helped me to listen and wonder today?”</li> <li>Consider passing around an object –e.g. holding cross – to help children to listen in silence to other children's wondering questions or thoughts.</li> <li>Consider changing posture if including music or singing as a response to scripture – encouraging joyful participation,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the Bible open and displayed in the classroom to invite further thinking.</li> <li>Pose a wondering question linked to the scripture for them to think about across the week</li> <li>Have some way of displaying and returning to this across the week</li> <li>Invite children to respond to the scripture across continuous provision e.g. drawing, small world etc.</li> <li>Invite the children to respond with an invitation to action linked to the scripture to live out across the week e.g. invite them to write the name of someone they sport being kind in the playground to a special box or board.</li> </ul>

## Lower Key Stage 2 – Years 3 and 4

<b>Prayer</b>				
<b>Sacred Space</b>	<b>Words</b>	<b>Gestures</b>	<b>Senses</b>	<b>Prayers of the Church</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the children develop in their prayer lives, begin to give them more choices and time to plan leading prayer.</li> <li>Model and support them in making choices of how to prepare spaces for prayer</li> <li>Encourage them to think about creating a prayerful atmosphere including where to pray, prayer focus display or power points, links to liturgical season, making the space different from class time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the children grow in confidence in prayer, give them opportunities to choose the prayer they want to plan and lead.</li> <li>Give them choices from traditional prayers of the church</li> <li>Invite them to begin to lead their own pre-written prayers – written with guidance and linked to liturgical season</li> <li>Give them choices from prayer books</li> <li>Support them in beginning to invite petitions from class and wider school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the children to consider how the gestures and postures they plan to use when leading prayer can help the children to lift their hearts to God.</li> <li>Invite them to plan in choices of whether to sit, stand or kneel at times of prayer</li> <li>Invite them to consider how to introduce moments of silence to aid prayer</li> <li>Begin to give them opportunities to reflect on the success of their choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model for the children how to make successful choices of aids to prayer</li> <li>Model and teach children to plan and lead times of prayer for the class making choices of artwork, music or artefacts – from an appropriate pre-selected range - to help the children to focus their hearts on God.</li> <li>Invite the children to begin to reflect on the success of their choices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Apostles' Creed</li> <li>Act of Contrition</li> <li>Angel of God</li> <li>Come, Holy Spirit</li> <li>Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</li> </ul>
<b>Celebration of the Word</b>				
<b>Sacred Space</b>	<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Gesture and Posture</b>	<b>Going Forth</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the children to plan and set up their own prayer focus for Celebrations of the Word – linked to the liturgical season and theme of scripture – with support.</li> <li>Support children to set up a place for Bible to be displayed and proclaimed from that honours the sacred scripture – e.g. stand, candle, crucifix, liturgical cloth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scripture used in a Celebration of the word to be read directly from a children's Bible</li> <li>Scripture choice linked to Sunday Gospel or Gospel of the day – where appropriate</li> <li>Support and prepare those who proclaim the word in celebrations – by helping them to understand meaning and read appropriately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model and support children to plan how to use drama, art, film clips, music etc to respond to the scripture story and aid understanding</li> <li>Model and support children in posing questions to help children to ponder and reflect on the meaning of the scripture shared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model and support children to lead class in appropriate posture and gesture for proclaiming and listening to scripture</li> <li>Opening and closing reading with correct words</li> <li>Standing for reading scripture</li> <li>Standing to hear Gospel</li> <li>Make crosses on forehead, lips and heart when hearing Gospel</li> <li>Sitting for response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help children to plan a question or action to give the rest of class to consider and respond to across the week – linked to scripture message.</li> </ul>
<b>Ministry</b>				
<b>Preparing Sacred Space</b>	<b>Welcoming</b>	<b>Proclaiming the Word</b>	<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>	<b>Music</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may be called to take on the ministry of preparing sacred spaces for the sacred liturgy of the Mass.</li> <li>This might include setting up a school space or in the church.</li> <li>This needs lots of modelling and support to ensure it is done well.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role, may begin to do this – observing and learning from older experienced children and adults.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children the names and purpose of sacred Mass objects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may be called to take on the ministry of welcoming children and adults to the Mass</li> <li>This might include arriving early to the Mass space and greeting warmly those arriving to celebrate Mass.</li> <li>This needs lots of modelling and support to ensure it is done well.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role, may begin to do this – observing and learning from older experienced children and adults.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children how to make people feel welcomed to the Mass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may feel called to take on the ministry of proclaiming scripture at Mass.</li> <li>This includes reading the First or Second reading and singing/reading the Psalm.</li> <li>This needs lots of teaching, modelling and support to ensure it is done well.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role, may begin to do this – observing and learning from older experienced children and adults.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children the meaning and context of the scripture and support to help them to understand their role in its proclamation.</li> <li>Children who take on this role should not only be competent readers – but should also understand what it means to proclaim – and not just read – scripture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may feel called to take on the ministry of leading the prayers of intercession in Mass.</li> <li>This needs lots of modelling and support to ensure it is done well.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role, may begin to do this – observing and learning from older experienced children and adults.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children the purpose of the prayers – how they will lead the congregation in bringing to God the needs of the school, parish and world.</li> <li>Children may begin to contribute to the content of the prayers – e.g. what they feel should be brought to God in prayer e.g. needs of the world or school community – but should not yet be writing them unsupported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may be called to take on the ministry of leading the congregation in the singing or musical accompaniment for the sacred liturgy of the Mass.</li> <li>This ministry needs time and commitment outside of the Mass time to learn and practise.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role, may begin to do this – observing and learning from older experienced children and adults.</li> <li>Best practice includes time not only to practise words and music and to ensure the children know the chosen music and hymns – but also to understand the purpose of sung prayer and hymn in the Mass.</li> </ul>

## Upper Key Stage 2 – Years 5 and 6

### Prayer

Sacred Space	Words	Gestures	Senses	Prayers of the Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the children enter upper Key Stage 2, they should be given regular opportunities to develop their own prayer lives and have frequent opportunities for prayer.</li> <li>Children should be given regular opportunities to plan and lead prayer – in pairs, groups, class and whole school settings.</li> <li>They should be given opportunities to plan prayer opportunities and prepare the space in various settings using a variety of different aids to support prayer – art, music, film, drama, sacred objects and be able to explain and evaluate their choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children given the opportunity to plan and lead a variety of different prayer traditions</li> <li>Write and lead their own prayers - researching and writing prayers for the world linked to current events and needs of the wider school community</li> <li>Plan prayer experiences including but not limited to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading litanies</li> <li>Leading the rosary</li> <li>Planning and writing Visio Divina p</li> <li>Planning and leading Lectio Divina</li> <li>Saying spontaneous prayers of praise, thanks, petition and remorse.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In planning prayer, children should consider how the gestures and postures they use when leading prayer can help them and other children to lift their hearts and minds to God.</li> <li>Children should plan in choices of whether to sit, stand or kneel at times of prayer</li> <li>Planned prayer should include extended moments of silence to aid prayerful reflection</li> <li>Children should reflect on their prayer – possibly using prayer journals - to reflect on their prayer lives.</li> <li>Children should be given opportunities to reflect on their planned prayers and evaluate success of choices to aid and support the prayer of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children should consider all the senses when planning how to lead others in prayer.</li> <li>They should make informed choices to aid the senses to lift their hearts and minds to God – including but not limited to                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sacred Art</li> <li>Candles and incense</li> <li>Music – hymns and praise</li> <li>Sacramentals – Holy Water, Medals etc</li> <li>Statues.</li> <li>Crosses and Crucifixes</li> <li>Links to the liturgical year e.g. cloths, nativity scenes,</li> <li>Bibles</li> </ul> </li> <li>Children should review and evaluate choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morning Offering</li> <li>The Rosary</li> <li>The Magnificat</li> <li>Act of Faith</li> <li>Act of Hope</li> <li>Act of Love</li> <li>Eternal Rest</li> </ul>

### Celebration of the Word

Sacred Space	Scripture	Response	Gesture and Posture	Going Forth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite the children to plan and set up their own prayer focus for Celebrations of the Word – linked to the liturgical season and theme of scripture.</li> <li>Children to set up a place for Bible to be displayed and proclaimed from that honours the sacred scripture – e.g. stand, candle, crucifix, liturgical cloth.</li> <li>Children to lead and support younger children to learn how to do this well</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scripture used in a Celebration of the word to be read directly from a children's Bible</li> <li>Scripture choice linked to Sunday Gospel or Gospel of the day – where appropriate</li> <li>Children should be prepared in the proclaiming of the word in celebrations with clear understanding of meaning and should read appropriately.</li> <li>Children should begin to lead and support younger children in their celebrations of the Word.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children should plan for responses to the key messages from the scripture chosen that help others to understand some of the intentions of the scripture. This could include posing wondering questions, choosing appropriate music or video clips to invite others to reflect, drama scenes or sacred art reflections.</li> <li>Children will still need support with planning these responses but should be developing independence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children should now know the appropriate posture and gesture for proclaiming and listening to scripture and be able to lead and model this for others.</li> <li>They could be given prompts to help them when preparing to ensure correct openings and responses for readings.</li> <li>They could model processing in with the Bible</li> <li>They should model and lead; standing for the reading of scripture, standing to hear the Gospel, making crosses on forehead, lips and heart when hearing Gospel and sitting for response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children should plan and lead going forth challenges for others to help them to take the key messages from the scripture shared into their own lives going forth.</li> <li>These could include inviting them to look for or notice something in their lives, responding to a challenge to do something, answering a further learning question etc.</li> <li>Children could plan ways to gather responses and share them in following liturgies.</li> </ul>

### Ministry

Preparing Sacred Space	Welcoming	Proclaiming Scripture	Prayers of Intercession	Music
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may be called to take on the ministry of preparing sacred spaces for the sacred liturgy of the Mass.</li> <li>This might include setting up a school space or in the church.</li> <li>This needs lots of modelling and support to ensure it is done well.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role will take more of a leading role in this – however the important nature of this role means it will still need to be monitored by appropriate adults.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to continue to teach children the names and purpose of sacred Mass objects – but children may now support and lead in the teaching of younger children (It is important to note that preparing well is a gift of the Holy Spirit and prayer with children beforehand can support them in this mission).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may be called to take on the ministry of welcoming children and adults to the Mass</li> <li>This might include arriving early to the Mass space and greeting warmly those arriving to celebrate Mass.</li> <li>This needs lots of modelling and support to ensure it is done well.</li> <li>Take on more of a leading role in this but will still need monitoring.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children how to make people feel welcomed to the Mass (It is important to note that welcoming is a gift of the Holy Spirit and prayer with children beforehand can support them in this mission).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may feel called to take on the ministry of proclaiming scripture at Mass.</li> <li>This includes reading the First or Second reading and singing/reading the Psalm (this need teaching and modelling and support to ensure it is done well.)</li> <li>Children may take more of a leading role – supporting and teaching younger children.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children the meaning and context of the scripture and support to help them to understand their role in its proclamation.</li> <li>Children who take on this role should not only be competent readers – but should also understand what it means to proclaim – and not just read – scripture. (It is important to note that proclaiming scripture is a gift of the Holy Spirit and prayer with children beforehand can support them in this mission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may feel called to take on the ministry of leading the prayers of intercession in Mass (needs lots of modelling and support to ensure it is done well).</li> <li>Children who feel called to this role, can lead the congregations in prayer.</li> <li>Best practice includes planned time to teach and explain to children the purpose of the prayers – how they will lead the congregation in bringing to God the needs of the school, parish and world.</li> <li>The children can write these prayers but will continue to need support and guidance on their format and correct wording.</li> <li>Children should decide, with guidance, what they wish to bring to God in prayer to represent the needs of the school and wider community. (It is important to note that leading and writing prayer is a gift of the Holy Spirit and prayer with children beforehand can support them in this mission).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some children may be called to take on the ministry of leading the congregation in the singing or musical accompaniment for the sacred liturgy of the Mass.</li> <li>This ministry needs time and commitment outside of the Mass time to learn and practise.</li> <li>Children who feel called to do this role can take on leadership in this role based on their own talents and charisms.</li> <li>Best practice includes time not only to practise words and music and to ensure the children know the chosen music and hymns – but also to understand the purpose of sung prayer and hymn in the Mass (It is important to note that leading the congregation in music is a gift of the Holy Spirit and prayer with children beforehand can support them in this mission).</li> </ul>

*“A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you.”  
John 13:34*

**Social Action at St. Mary’s:**

**At St. Mary’s we don’t just pray with empty words. We put our mission statement into action by following Jesus’ example to help others, care for creation and stand up for fairness. Therefore, we notice needs in the world and respond to them the very best we can, both through prayer and action:**

Our Head Boy and Girl and Deputies are our role models to the whole school – they are democratically elected by their peers in line with our British values. They lead and present awards in Friday’s assembly.

Our GIFT Team formally apply for their role through an application and interview by the Headteacher and RE Governor. They lead daily lunchtime prayer sessions and charity events throughout the year eg Harvest Food bank, Advent collections for the homeless and Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Our Prefects and EYFS Lunchtime monitors support the younger children in play/lunchtime and in setting the best examples of behaviour and also through supporting them in mass and assemblies.

Our School Council are democratically elected by their peers and lead on pupil voice and speaking up for others. They also lead charity fundraising including supporting FPTA events.

Our Wow Walk to school Ambassadors are pupil leaders who champion active travel to/from school and promote through encouragement of walking/cycling to school; not only for our own health, but to protect our local environment.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors are a pupil group who are trained to promote and support the mental health and wellbeing of all our children.

Our Eco Warriors are always on the lookout for how we can make our environment better as good stewards and protectors of God’s earth.

*“Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me” Matthew 25:40.*

**Celebration of the Word Planning Sheet.**



We begin in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our planning

**Gospel:** God's word is where we start - which Gospel are we using? (*Gospel of the day? /Sunday's Gospel?*)

- Are we using a different passage of scripture?
- What is the Gospel (or Bible reading) saying?
- What is the liturgical season?
- Are there any significant feasts or celebration days?
- What is happening in school now?
- Is there anything else that we want to pray about?

**After reflecting, our theme is:**

<p><b>Gather</b></p> <p>How will we create the right mood/ atmosphere? Seating? Music? Lighting? The Quiet Mind Script?</p> <p>What will our focal point look like: Do we have a cloth to reflect the liturgical season? Will we have a cross, Bible or candle? Maybe a symbol connected to the Gospel?</p> <p>Who will welcome everyone and how?</p> <p>How will we introduce our theme? How can we link it to people's experience?</p> <p>How will we start our prayer?</p>	<p><b>Word</b></p> <p>Where will the Bible be?</p> <p>How will we help people to respect God's word, to know this is a special time?</p> <p>Who will read?</p> <p>Who will help them understand the reading?</p> <p>When will they practise?</p> <p>Will we help people listen to God speaking to them with silence, wonder questions, Lectio Divina or Ignatian, imaginative prayer?</p> <p>How will we do this?</p>
<p><b>Respond</b></p> <p>How will we respond to the Bible in a prayerful way?</p> <p>Will we use silence /art/ music / writing / a symbolic action - or something else? Which of our senses are we using?</p> <p>How/ when will you distribute the resources, so the prayerful atmosphere is not disturbed? Will we give them out first?</p> <p>How will we draw this time of response to a close?</p>	<p><b>Send</b></p> <p>What message do we want people to take away? Do we want them to decide for themselves? How will we help them do this?</p> <p>Which prayer will we share together to close this celebration of the word?</p> <p>What will the final message be? Who will say it and how?</p>

**Celebration of the Word Planning Sheet.**

Write your decisions - or put your planning cards - on this plan.

<p><b>Gospel:</b></p>	<p><b>Theme:</b></p>
<p><b>Gather</b></p> <p><i>We come together as part of God's family.</i></p>	<p><b>Word</b></p> <p><i>God speaks to <u>us</u> and we listen.</i></p>
<p><b>Respond</b></p> <p><i>We take the time to engage and reflect more deeply.</i></p>	<p><b>Send</b></p> <p><i>We want to share the Good News!</i></p>