

“As unique individuals, we do our best at work and play for the love of God and others.”



St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Written: July 2024

Review Date: July 2026

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Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of Our School

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer and Liturgy in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and Liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions;
- Those from other faith backgrounds or no faith background;
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

We believe that Prayer and Liturgy in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles

All acts of Prayer and Liturgy in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic Character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

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 in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Planning

Liturgical prayer in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Prayer and Liturgy directory, the Shrewsbury diocese resources, CAFOD resources, significant dates (Appendix 1) and The Vine and Branches planning (based on the RE Directory). The correct planning format should be used (Appendix 2) and copies of planning should be added to the class or hall prayer and liturgy book.

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of liturgical prayer
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead liturgical prayer

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Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of Liturgical prayer will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Liturgical prayer. These are stored centrally in the cupboard outside the staffroom and are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Lead's monitoring role. There are several internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning. See Appendix 2 for examples of the planning and completed planning.

Timetable

In order to achieve the above, Celebration of the Word is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole school Celebration of the Word centred round Gospel readings

Tuesday – Class Celebration of the Word (See Appendix 3 for progression document)

Wednesday – Whole school Celebration of the Word led by Team Benedict and followed by Hymn Practice.

Thursday – Class Celebration of the Word (See Appendix 3 for progression document)

Friday – Whole school Celebration of the Word including school news and celebration

Attending Mass

Mass is an integral part of worship at St Benedict's and takes place in church at least once per term. Mass in school will highlight a special occasion and will usually involve Team Benedict. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the *'Directory for Masses with Children'* as a basis for our practice. In addition to our whole school masses, Key Stage 2 classes attend mass weekly and this is done on a rota which is shared with staff at the start of each half term. Key Stage 1 children attend mass at least twice per term.

Children will be encouraged to participate in Sunday Masses throughout the year. The school choir will sing at mass on the third Sunday of each month and the rest of the school will be encouraged to attend and participate. Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3. Special Sunday Masses are arranged with Catechists and Parish Priest for the children to participate in.

Prayer

The best prayers are those that come from the 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 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 must be continually developed and fostered.

See Appendix 4 for prayers used at our school and the years which they should be taught.

Leader of Prayer and Liturgy

The RE Lead leads all areas of R.E. including prayer and liturgy. They will work in partnership with the Parish Priest and the Headteacher to make sure that all Liturgical Prayer is both Catholic in organisation and content. They inform and enable all members of staff and the children to fully engage in following the Catholic faith.

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Appendix 1

Liturgical Year 2024-25

The calendar below details the liturgical seasons, key feasts and months of liturgical significance. It will also detail which aspects of the liturgical calendar should be seen in books and how class altars should reflect the season.

	Liturgical Season	Significant Feasts/Focus	Curriculum Notes	Altar notes
September	Ordinary Time	Mission Statement	Mission statement work in children's books	
October		Month of the Holy Rosary Harvest St Raphael's Feast Day 29th	Rosary work in books - see rosary progression document	Altar should reflect that it is the month of the Holy Rosary, display rosary beads, how to pray the rosary
November		Month of Remembrance All Saints 1st All Souls 2 nd St Elizabeth's Feast Day 5 th Christ the King 24th November	Remembrance Activities in RE Books	Book of remembrance on altar

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December	Advent	Preparing for the coming of Christ 1 st Sunday 1 st Dec	If Curriculum does not cover Advent, then this should be taught in addition to Curriculum RE SVP Christmas cards Advent promises Travelling nativities and Prayer bags to go home Advent Liturgical prayer in key stages	Advent Wreath in prominent position
	Christmas			
January	Ordinary Time	Epiphany 6 th Baptism of the Lord 12 th <i>(Sunday after the Epiphany)</i> Peace Sunday 19 th January		
February		Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (World day for the sick) 11 th		
March		St David's Day 1 st St Katharine's Feast Day 3 rd Shrove Tuesday 4 th	Shrove Tuesday	
	Lent	Ash Wednesday 5 th	Ash Wednesday	

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		<p>St Fin's Feast day 12th</p> <p>St Patrick's Day 17th</p> <p>St Joseph's Feast Day 19th</p> <p>Annunciation of the Lord 25th</p>	Lenten Promises to be completed	
April		<p>Palm Sunday 13th</p> <p>St Bernadette's Feast Day 16th</p>	Easter cards to be made for SVP	
	Holy Week	<p>Holy Thursday 17th</p> <p>Good Friday 18th</p>	Lent liturgical prayers to be completed in key stages	
	Easter	<p>Easter Sunday 20th</p> <p>St George's Day 23rd</p>	The Triduum should be covered in detail in books	
May		<p>Month of Mary</p> <p>Ascension 29th</p> <p>St Joan of Arc's Feast Day 30th</p>	<p>Month of Mary work should be in RE books - see month of Mary progression document</p> <p>Crowning of Our Lady</p>	<p>Alleluia should be displayed prominently in the classroom.</p> <p>Altars should reflect the month of Mary, rosary beads on altar.</p>
June				

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	Ordinary Time	Month of the Sacred Heart Pentecost 8th	Pentecost activity in books	Altar should reflect the Sacred Heart - A red cloth could be used and an image of the Sacred heart.
July		St Benedict's Feast 11 th July Thanksgiving for the Year	House activities for the feast of St Benedict Lesson about St Benedict to be recorded in books	

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Class: Whole school **Leader:** C.McBride **Date:** 13.6.22



Gather

Start with the sign of the cross

Today is Trinity Sunday when we think about how God is made up of three persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let's find out some more.

God of love, you gave us your Son, you gave us your Spirit, may we always follow you in all that we do and say. Amen

Word

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Response to the Word - Prayer/Symbolic Action

What do you remember from today's reading?

This story is part of Jesus' farewell conversation to the disciples before he dies on the cross. Jesus says to the disciples that after he has gone, the Holy Spirit will guide them. The Holy Spirit will be their teacher and will speak to them just as Jesus did when he was alive and with them. The Holy Spirit will show the disciples what they must do and what they must say in Jesus' name.

Who teaches you and guides you? Teachers, parents, friends and family all teach us and guide us.

God the Holy Spirit is there to guide us too.

There is only one God, But God is made up of three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is what we call the Trinity. Trinity means three.

Can you think of a way that we are reminded of the Trinity every time we pray? (Through the Sign of the Cross)

This relationship of the Father, Son and Spirit is a relationship where all are together but each person is also different. The Father created the world and everything in it and sent his only Son Jesus to live among us here on earth. Jesus came to help us to know the Father, to teach us how to live and to forgive our sins. When he returned to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to give us courage, to guide us in the right path and to bring us faith, hope, joy and peace.

Look at the PowerPoint of Trinity images and discuss them. Which is the children's favourite? Why?

This is a bit like our families - we might have parents, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and grandparents. Whatever the size of our family, we know there are different people in our family who are of different ages, have different relationships and jobs but we are still only one family with them. We are all connected through our family bond.

We are also all part of one big global family that includes everyone in the world. We are all God's children. We are all special, and even though we are all different we are all equally important. We are all asked to care for one another and for the earth that we live in. But how we do this depends on who we are and our own gifts.

Go Forth - Mission

We believe that Jesus' promise to the disciples - that the Holy Spirit would be with them and guide them, is still true for all of us today and all people after us. The Holy Spirit can guide us to do what is right and to use our talents in the best way to help others.

Can you listen to the Holy Spirit in the coming week, and see how the Spirit guides you, especially in the way you treat those you live with and the members of our global family throughout the world?

Let us all do our best this week to listen to and love God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and try to live as God asks us to.

Loving God, you are with us always. Send us your Spirit to teach and guide us to live in peace with each other every day. Amen.

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Appendix 3

Class Celebration of the Word Progression Document

Year Group:	By the end of each year group children should:
Reception	Participate in and respond
Year 1	Begin to lead appropriate parts e.g. responses and mission
Year 2	Lead parts appropriate parts
Year 3	Lead majority and begin to take on some responsibility of planning (diocesan cards can be used)
Year 4	Lead majority and take on more responsibility of planning (diocesan cards can be used)
Year 5	Plan with support from an adult and lead (diocesan cards can be used)
Year 6	Plan with support from an adult and lead (diocesan cards can be used)

Appendix 4

Prayers used at the school

Morning Prayer at 9am (Reception-Y6)

Dear God,
We do our best in work and play
For the love of You and others.
Amen

Home-time prayer 3:30pm (R-Y6)

God our Father, I've 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. Amen

Lunchtime prayer - Hail Mary (R-Y2)

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst 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.

11am- lunchtime prayer - The Angelus (Y3-6)

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...
Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to the word.
Hail Mary...
And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us
Hail Mary...
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

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That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth we beseech you, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts;

the message of an angel, may, by his passion and cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection.

Through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

School Prayer (R-Y6)

Dear God

We do our best in work and play

For the love of you and others.

Amen

Hail Mary (R-Y6)

Hail Mary, full of grace

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst 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.

Our Father (Y2-6)

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

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Glory Be (Y3-6)

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

Eternal Rest (Y1-6)

Eternal rest, give unto him/her O Lord,

And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace. Amen

Prayer to St Benedict (Y1-Y6)

St Benedict, patron of our school.

Pray for us.

Mission Statement (Y1-6)

As unique individuals, we do our best in work and play for the love of God and others.

After a reading (not Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Before a Gospel reading (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)

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Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to (Matthew, Mark, Luke OR John)

Response: Glory to you, O Lord. (Make small crosses on forehead, lips and heart using thumb)

After the Gospel reading

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Reader: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mass Responses

Children should be able to join in with mass responses from Y3 onwards.