

## ST ANDREW'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

#### THE MISSION OF OUR SCHOOL IS:

*To live, love and Learn Together as witnesses of Christ.*

**“Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20**

#### **WHAT IS LITURGY?**

- Liturgy is a communal act in which we raise our hearts and minds to God.
- Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life and our lives.
- All good liturgies involve the telling of the story of Christ and his Church.
- Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the person, it involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell.
- Participating in liturgy forms our habits because we are ritual people and learn through repetition and copying. In liturgy we discover the riches of prayer, through word and gesture, silence and stillness.
- The purpose of adapting liturgy for pupils is to lead them into full, conscious and active participation in the wider liturgy of the Church.
- Liturgy with children, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity and simplicity.
- Good liturgy touches our lives in such a way that we are renewed in our mission.

#### **INTENTIONS OF PRAYER AND LITURGY**

Prayer and Liturgy in St Andrew's Catholic School will provide an opportunity for every member of the school community to:

- Pray by giving praise thanks and intercession to God using traditional prayers of the Catholic Church and many other sources of prayer that will enable this to take place.
- Come to know and acknowledge the presence of God who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Continue to nurture a relationship with God through words, symbols, song, gestures, and silence
- Take part in an educational experience that is rooted in prayer and the worship of God.
- Contemplate the mystery and transcendence of God who is ever close to us and ever beyond us.
- Develop a sense of wonder and awe at the presence of God amongst us and the gift of life itself.
- Explore the beliefs of the Catholic faith community and their own beliefs.
- Experience what it means to belong or take part in the worshipping community of the Church.
- Acknowledge joys and sorrows, the ordinary and darker side of life as part of a relationship with God.
- Learn how the Liturgy of the Church is structured and the meaning of the different parts of the liturgical rites.
- Be able to make links between communal prayer and liturgy and the daily life.

## **STRUCTURING PRAYER AND LITURGY IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

In every act of communal Prayer and Liturgy a four-fold structure will be observed. The structure is based upon the principals of gathering, listening, responding, and going forth.

### **GATHERING TOGETHER**

In our coming together for Prayer and Liturgy we acknowledge the presence of Christ with us in our act of gathering. Our time of prayer is not simply personal, based upon our individual relationship with God, but it is also communal, for our life of faith is shaped through the faith we share in the community of the Church,

- Music, hymn or song, lighting of candles, use of incense, procession, blessing with holy water can all contribute towards helping the community enter a time of prayer together.
- At Morning Prayer, the greeting, *“Lord, open our lips; and we shall praise your name”*, can be used as an appropriate greeting.
- The use of a psalm as a gathering prayer should be considered. Psalms 145 – 150 are particularly appropriate as they remind us that our duty is to praise God when we come together to pray.
- Consideration will be given to seating and posture for prayer and liturgy so that everyone has an awareness that we have gathered to pray.  
A focal point connected to the seasons of the Church’s year and the appropriate feast day will be used to support gathering to pray.
- The leadership of the time of prayer and liturgy will be shared, so that adults and children are both confident in doing this.

### **LISTENING**

Our time of Prayer and Liturgy is about deepening our relationship with God and with one another. We deepen this relationship through:

- In class prayer time, assemblies and other non-Eucharistic liturgies, consideration is given to using scripture readings, readings associated with the liturgical season or feast days.
- Readings are shared from both the Old and New Testament and explanations given.
- Other types of readings are also shared e.g. psalms
- The reader should always clearly announce where the reading comes from and should use the appropriate liturgical conclusion to which the assembly makes the appropriate response. If the gospel is proclaimed it should be accompanied by the action of making the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart.
- A few moments of silence should be given following the reading to allow everybody to reflect on what they have just heard.
- When the gospel is proclaimed, the appropriate gospel acclamation should accompany it. This will give due emphasis to the importance of the Word that is to be proclaimed. ☩
- During assemblies and whole school non-Eucharistic liturgies the lectern might be used to proclaim the Word of God from and candles and a procession may accompany the proclamation of the gospel.

### **RESPONDING**

Responding includes praise, thanks, intercession, and contrition. We respond in a variety of ways:

- We respond with examples of praise and thanks by using a variety of prayers and blessings.
- We respond with traditional prayers.

- We respond to images e.g. ICT displayed piece of religious art.
- Intersessions are both personal and general.
- The act of sorrow is used to respond to being forgiven.
- Response may be through personal reflection and prayerful silence.
- Response is often through music or symbols.
- We use the Rosary as an integral part of prayer to respond to the mysteries (particularly in the months of May and October)

## **GO FORTH**

Give the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

## **UNDERSTANDING OF THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

We ensure that pupils are aware of the Liturgical Calendar and key events in the Church. The symbolism of colours is made clear from the earliest days in our school: purple for penance (seen during Advent and Lent), red for Holy Spirit and martyrdom (seen at Pentecost), white, gold for important feasts and green for the ordinary times of the year.

Months of the year have a special focus. October is the month of the Rosary, November is the month when the Holy Souls in Purgatory are prayed for, January, the Most Holy Name of Jesus, February the Holy Family, and March, St Joseph. May is the month when Mary is especially remembered and June is the month of the Sacred Heart when we remember especially the great love Jesus has for us.

## **PUPIL & STAFF EVALUATION OF PRAYER AND LITURGY**

Before each liturgy, we should be considering:

- Is there a plan available with content to meet the needs of all present?
- Is there an appropriate focus?
- Are the resources used suitable?
- Are ICT/Music etc. prepared and ready?
- Do all the readers/leaders have all they need? Have all support staff been briefed?
- Have invitations been sent to members of the community (if appropriate)?
- Is the accommodation suitable and ready?

## **HYMN PRACTICE**

The children participate in weekly hymn practices, where they learn Mass responses and sing both traditional and modern hymns. Music is central part of worship in our school and hymns are used in all areas of worship from supporting themes within Masses and assemblies to providing atmosphere through chants and reflective music in meditation. The children enjoy learning new hymns in the school choir, which has an important part to play in Mass and liturgical celebrations.

## **PARISH LINKS**

As part of the Church community the school has strong links with the parish. Pupils and staff join the parish for regular Masses as well as parish celebrations. Pupils are encouraged to become in parish participating in Altar serving.

## **GOVERNING BODY**

Catholic Life and Mission, RE together with Prayer and Liturgy is always a key part of the School Development Plan and is reported upon regularly at our Ethos and Ethics Meeting and as part of the Head Teacher's Report to Governors. Governors are also invited to join with other members of the whole school community in the celebration of Mass, Class Prayer Services and attend INSET Days relating to the Catholic Life of the School.

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR PRAYER AND LITURGY**

Monday	Headteacher's Gospel Assembly
Tuesday	Hymn Practice every week GIFT Ambassadors Assembly every two weeks
Wednesday	Class Collective Worship
Thursday	Mass
Friday	Dove/ Praise Celebration

## **POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This policy will be monitored by the Catholic Education Team and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and governors every two years.

*Review Date April 2025*