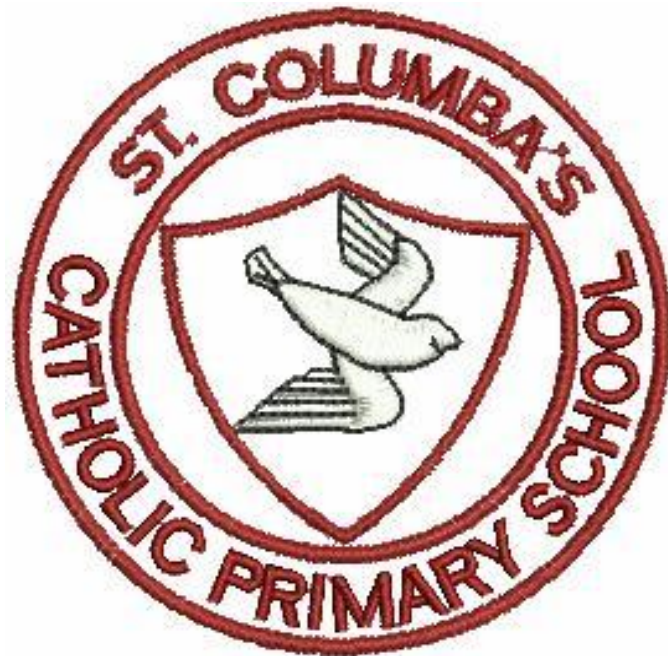


Holding Hands with Jesus as we Love, Learn and Grow Together

St Columba's Catholic Primary School



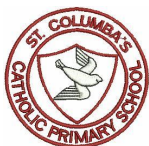
Prayer and liturgy policy

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 23rd September 2025 and will be reviewed September 2027

Last reviewed by Mrs L Potter (R.E Lead) September 2025

Our Mission Statement:

Holding Hands with Jesus as we Love, Learn and Grow Together



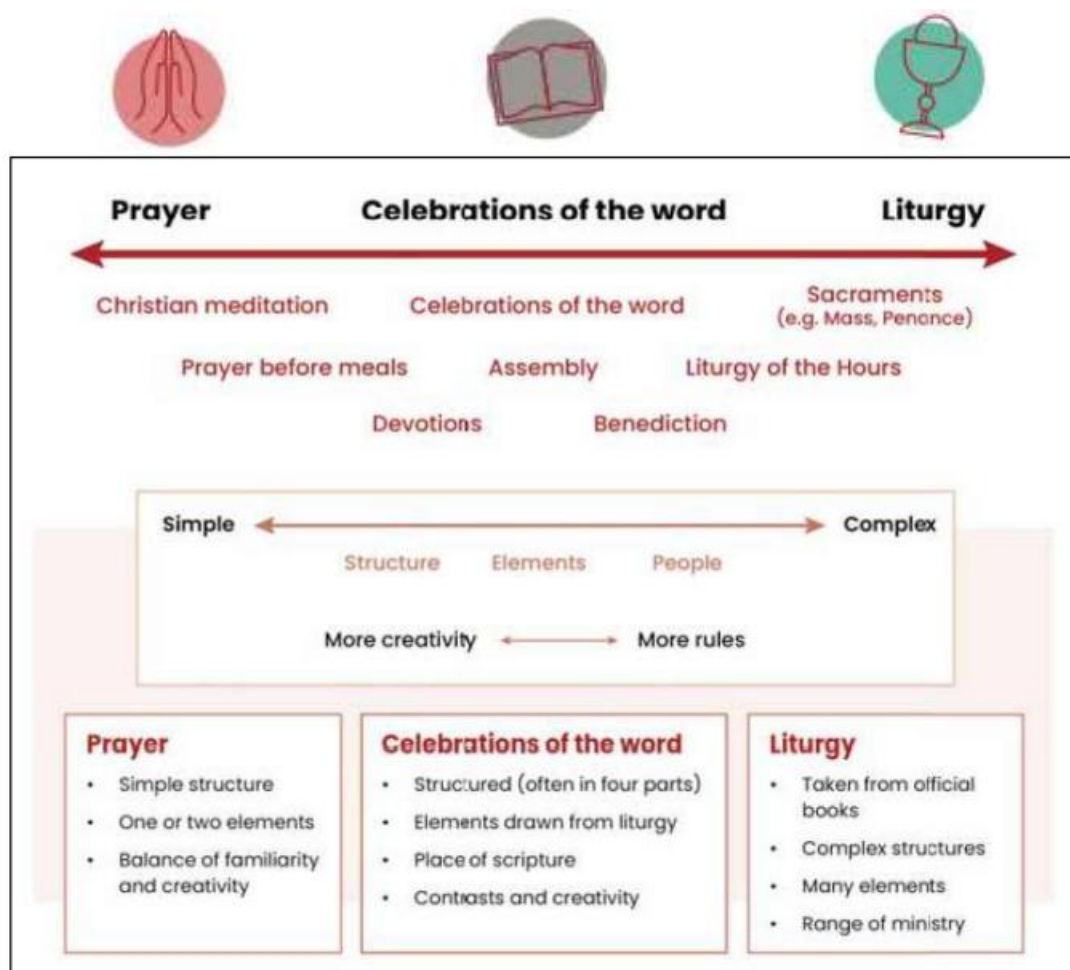
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Introduction: Understanding Prayer and Liturgy (from the Prayer and Liturgy Directory)

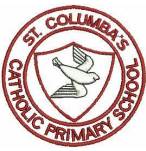
In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year, celebrations of Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character dependent on the circumstances,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

Definition of Terms

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



Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 there is a statutory duty to inspect and report on denominational education (that is religious education) and collective worship in schools designated as having a religious character. For this reason, the term 'Collective Worship' has been kept as the headline judgement by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate but throughout the framework it is referred to as prayer and liturgy. This model policy addresses the shift in vocabulary and is an interim response to the draft Prayer and Liturgy Directory.



Holding Hands with Jesus as we Love, Learn and Grow Together

St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and liturgy Policy

The Nature of Prayer and liturgy

Prayer and liturgy celebrates the presence of God in our lives. Prayer is an uplifting way of speaking to God; prayer isn't just about asking God for something but praising him, expressing gratitude and worship. It involves our whole person. It is our response through words and actions to enter into a relationship with God, which was made possible through the work of Jesus witnessed by the Holy Spirit.

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

Legal Requirements

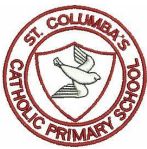
It is a legal requirement, for Catholic schools, to provide pupils with a daily 'act of worship'. This can take place at any time during the school day and can either be a whole school 'act of worship' or separate 'acts of worship' in smaller school groups.

Holding an assembly that contains a prayer, said by everyone present or the person leading the assembly does not meet this requirement. Liturgical prayer, prayer and assemblies are distinct activities. They could potentially form part of the same gathering, but the difference between will always be made clear.

'Acts of worship' is not dedicated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, in particular Religious Education. Responsibility for arranging prayer and liturgy lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from 'acts of worship'. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

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.



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The place of Prayer and liturgy in the Life of St Columba's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and liturgy is central to catholic tradition and is a fundamental part of school life.

Prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of:

- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those from other Christian traditions- or none

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 Coordinator)
- 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.

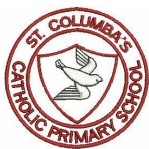
(b) Headteacher

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 Coordinator

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:



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- 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 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
- 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
- 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

The aims of Prayer and liturgy

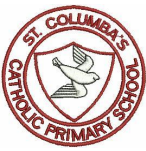
The aims of prayer and liturgy at St Columba's Catholic Primary School is to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to:

- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To enrich religious experiences
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To pray using prayers which are part of Catholic traditions
- To grow liturgical understanding and development
- To participate fully
- To take time out to 'wonder'
- To reinforce positive attitudes

Principles

All acts of prayer in St Columba's Catholic Primary School will:

- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the



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Church. Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give glory and honour to God

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.

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.

Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Religious Education curriculum (To Know You More Clearly), Church seasons, feast days and significant dates e.g., CAFOD.

Our parish family and parents/carers are invited to join us in celebration during some 'acts of worship'.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

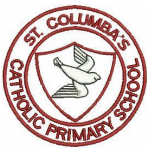
An overview of our annual prayer and liturgy plan can be found in appendix 1.

Leading Prayer and liturgy

As leader of school, the Headteacher will plan and lead prayer and liturgy for whole school assemblies and services. The class teacher will lead class prayer and liturgy. Children are taught to plan and lead prayer times according to age.

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,



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parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

The learning environment

Throughout the school environment, symbols and icons of the Catholic faith will be displayed to help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness of the school learning environment.

Policy monitoring and review

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

The role of the coordinator for Prayer and liturgy

- Creating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is age-appropriate
- Organising themes for prayer times
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g., through modelling different prayer styles

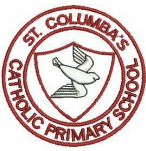
Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

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

Communication

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

Professional development/ formation



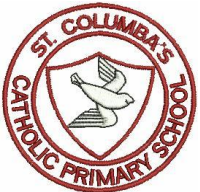
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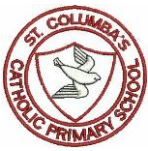
- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

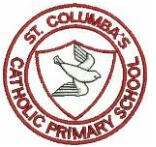
- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently



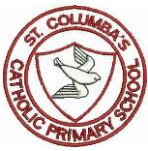
	Appendix 1 Annual Prayer and liturgy Plan				
	Class prayer and liturgy overview				
	<u>Common Prayers</u>	<u>Daily Prayers</u>	<u>Celebration of the Word</u>	<u>Other forms of prayer</u>	<u>Mass responses</u>
<u>EYFS</u>	Amen Sign of the cross Glory Be	Grace before meals End of day	Each week: Monday: whole school Teacher led other days with participation from children (outlined in policy)	Guide individual prayer e.g., spontaneous, reflection	The Lord be with you. R: And with your spirit. Greet the Gospel with "Alleluia"
<u>Key Stage 1</u>	All the above, plus... Our Father Hail Mary Gloria	Morning Grace before meals End of day	Each week: Monday: whole school Teacher led other days with participation from children (outlined in policy)	Guide individual prayer e.g., spontaneous, reflection Wednesday: Sing and praise sessions	All the above, plus... <u>Introductory Rites</u> Lord, have mercy. R: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. R: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. R: Lord, have mercy. <u>Sign of Peace</u> Peace be with you
<u>Lower Key Stage 2</u>	All the above, plus... Apostles Creed	Morning Grace before meals	Each week: Monday: whole school	Guide individual prayer e.g., spontaneous, reflection	All the above, plus... Liturgy of the Word The Word of the Lord R: Thanks be to God



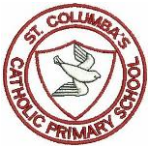
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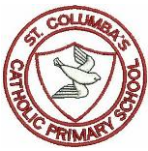
	Nicene Creed Act of Contrition Angel of God Prayer to the Holy Spirit The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	End of day	Teacher led other days with participation from children, building up to child-led celebration (outlined in policy)	Wednesday: Sing and praise sessions	A reading from the holy Gospel according to ... R: Glory to you, O Lord. (Sign of the Cross on forehead, lips, and chest) The Gospel of the Lord. R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ
<u>Upper Key Stage 2</u>	All the above, plus... Morning Offering Eternal Rest Act of Faith Act of Hope Act of Love The Magnificat The Rosary Angelus	Morning Grace before meals End of day	Each week: Monday: whole school Teacher led other days with participation from children and 1 celebration led by children (outlined in policy)	Guide individual prayer e.g., spontaneous, reflection Wednesday: Sing and praise sessions	All the above, plus... Liturgy of the Eucharist Blessed be God for ever. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church The Eucharistic Prayer The Lord be with you. R: And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. R: We lift them up to the Lord.



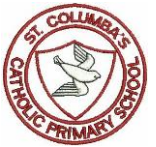
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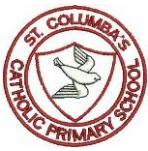
	The Confiteor (I Confess)				Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R: It is right and just. Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Communion Rite When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter
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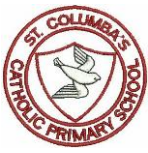
					under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.
<u>Whole school Prayer and liturgy overview</u>					
	<u>Services/ Celebrations</u>	<u>School Masses</u>	<u>Celebration of the Word</u>	<u>Sacraments</u>	<u>Other prayer opportunities</u>
<u>September</u>					School mission statement
<u>October</u>	Harvest	Class Mass on Creation and Covenant			Rosary
<u>November</u>	Remembrance Day	All Saints Day Advent Class Mass on Promise and Prophecy		Reconciliation during Advent	Reflection on Saints
<u>December</u>	Nativity				
<u>January</u>			Epiphany Baptism of Jesus		
<u>February</u>	Ash Wednesday	Class Mass on Galilee to Jerusalem	Candlemas		
<u>March</u>	Easter Passion Play	Class Mass on Desert to Garden	St Joseph Annunciation		Stations of the Cross Holy Week
<u>April</u>					



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<u>May</u>	Month of Mary	Class Mass on To the ends of the Earth	Ascension	Year 4 Reconciliation Year First Holy Communion	Rosary
<u>June</u>		Feast of St Columba	Pentecost Holy Trinity Body and Blood of the Lord		Feast of St Columba
<u>July</u>	Year 6 Leaver's assembly				



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