

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School



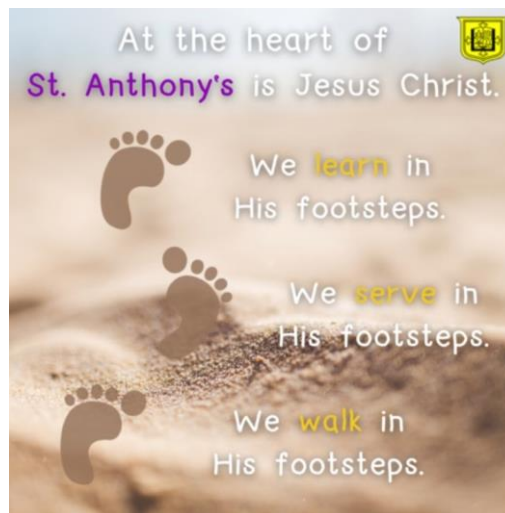
Prayer and Liturgy Policy



Mrs J Barnes

September 2025

School Mission Statement



Prayer and Liturgy Statement of Intent

At St. Anthony's we aim to guide children through their religious journey, ensuring our ethos supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within the entire school community. We guide the children to strive towards living their lives following the Gospel values, the teachings of Jesus Christ, using His life as an example, and the Catholic Church. This is done through modelling these actions daily and supporting those who teach and work with the children with this endeavour. Our strong community of staff, parents, carers and the parish community work together to provide a safe, welcoming Christian atmosphere where all children can succeed by learning in His footsteps, serving in His footsteps and walking in His footsteps.

Aims of Prayer and Liturgy:

- To make Christ known to the whole school community.
- To build a relationship with God and show reverence.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To enrich religious experience by ensuring that children are active participants in worshipping God.
- To become familiar and confident with Catholic customs and traditions.
- To recognise and embed current scripture themes.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

Principles

All prayer and liturgy in school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality experience fundamental to the life of the school and its character.
- Engage children in the life of the Church.
- Offer a range of creative experiences in a variety of settings, such as different prayer styles including dance and music.
- Be age appropriate.

Content

The content of prayer and liturgy should:

- Follow the Church's calendar.
- Include scripture (where possible the scripture of the day or the weekend's Gospel).
- Be varied, interesting and engaging.
- Include a variety of experiences and responses (music, song, art, candles, video, drama, meditation).
- Include traditional prayers that are age appropriate.

Structure and Organisation

Collective worship across the school week is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole school assembly (Sunday Gospel)

Tuesday – Class Mass (parents invited) or class prayer and liturgy

Wednesday – Class Assembly (parents invited) for whole school

Thursday – Class prayer and liturgy

Friday – Whole school celebration assembly

All collective worship will follow a liturgical structure:

- ❖ Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment.
- ❖ Listen – the Word of God is proclaimed.
- ❖ Response – the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action.
- ❖ Going Forth – giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

In Key Stage 2, class based prayer and liturgy is a mix of adult led and child led. Children in Years 3/4 need greater support from adults / Prayer Leaders to plan and deliver the prayer and liturgy.

In Key Stage 1, prayer and liturgy is teacher led but with active participation from the children.

Responses / reflections from *some* of the prayer and liturgies should be recorded in class floor books. Children should be encouraged to evaluate their prayer and liturgy.

Liturgy

We begin and end each term joining the parish for a whole school Mass and attend Mass in church for Holy days e.g. All Saints Day, St. Peter & St. Paul. In addition, we host a range of other celebrations across the year e.g. Harvest Celebration, Advent Service, Carol Service.

Prayer

Prayer is not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning, lunchtime and in the evening. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

In addition to our daily routine of prayer, all children have the opportunity to join the Rosary Group each day at lunchtime throughout October and May to pray the Rosary.

Opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross will be given during the season of Lent.

Sacraments

Children in Year 4 are invited to prepare for and receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Catechists from the parish work alongside school staff to support parents and children through the preparation for the sacraments. Sessions are held in the school hall on Wednesday evenings from September to May. Children receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at a special service during Advent. They receive the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time at the normal parish Mass during May.

Once have received the sacraments for the first time there are further opportunities for children to receive the Eucharist at whole school Masses and class Masses throughout the year. During Advent and Lent, opportunities are provided for children to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Professional Development/INSET/Training

At St. Anthony's we recognise that as a staff we can always develop and strengthen our own religious understanding and personal faith. Each year we begin the year with an INSET/ part of an INSET dedicated to Religious Development. Throughout the year we also ensure that there are Staff Meetings and TA training dedicated to developing our own understanding of prayer and liturgy. We utilise diocese training such as New to Catholic Education, RE subject Leaders and Senior Leaders Conferences and use diocese leaders to deliver training in school as needed.

Resources

At St. Anthony's we use a range of resources to support prayer and liturgy throughout the school. We provide guidance and suggested resources for teachers and children to follow, however we believe in creating liturgical prayers that are relevant and resonate with the children, therefore we allow freedom with the choice of resources. Our main resources are from the Diocese, CAFOD, TenTen and Magister.

Each class is provided with liturgical cloths which are changed to correspond to the liturgical year colours. They also have access to a range of artefacts such as: Bibles, candles, crucifix, art-work and other Catholic artefacts.

Inclusion

At St. Anthony's we welcome children / staff of other faiths, we ensure we take care to respect their faiths and cultures. Parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from an act of worship, either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the headteacher.

Appendix 1

School Prayers

Morning Offering

Hello God,
Here's another day, with friends to meet and games to play,
Things to do and books to read,
The food, the comfort that we need,
May I always grateful be,
For all that you have given to me.
Amen



Prayer before Meals

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



End of the Day

At the end of the day, I would like 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



Common Prayer (See Prayer & Liturgy Directory)

Age phase	5-7 (KS1)	7-9 (LKS2)	9-11 (Upper KS2)
Common Prayers	Sign of the Cross The Lord's Prayer Hail Mary Glory Be	The Apostles' Creed Act of Contrition Angel of God Come, Holy Spirit The Prayer of Richard Chichester	Morning Offering The Rosary The Magnificat Act of Faith Act of Hope Act of Love

Appendix 2



Prayer & Liturgy
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