



**STUART
BATHURST**
Catholic High School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Mission and Catholic Ethos

At Stuart Bathurst Catholic School, our mission is clear...

"To bear witness to the Gospel Values and act always with a steadfast determination to do and be of our best."

Religious Education and our Catholic ethos is at the heart of everything we do. It shapes our identity, inspires our learning, and guides the spiritual formation of every child. Through Catholic Social teaching we nurture the faith of each child, encouraging them to be the person God has called them to be.

Our mission is summarised in the motto; "To do and be of our best." We all work always to be the best versions of ourselves, becoming the person God has planned for us to become, knowing that God makes this possible.

We collectively promote perseverance in faith, learning and life — guiding children to develop resilience as they follow Christ's example.

Definitions

Liturgy is a formal act of the Church, guided by official books like the Roman Missal and the Lectionary. These set out the structure, words, gestures, and symbols used in celebrations.

Liturgical Prayer refers to school-based prayer celebrations modelled on Church liturgies, particularly the

Liturgy of the Word. These include assemblies, carol services, and seasonal celebrations, drawing on the symbols and structure of formal liturgy.

Prayer in school happens daily and may include:

- Traditional and spontaneous prayers,
- Opportunities for silence and reflection,
- Creative elements linked to the liturgical year,

All prayer and liturgical experiences aim to deepen pupils' faith, reflect the Catholic identity of the school, and support spiritual development in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

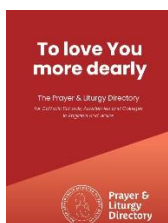
The context of this prayer and liturgy policy 'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012),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

Statement of Requirement

As a Catholic School, we are committed to providing a daily act of prayer and liturgy, in line with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This is part of our educational mission and reflects the importance of spiritual development for all our pupils. We ensure that prayer and liturgy are central to our school life, nurturing a reflective, prayerful, and spiritually rich environment for every child.

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019). The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)).

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.



As such, we use 'To love You more dearly' which is the Prayer and Liturgy directory for Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England and Wales. It is a document of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

Statement of Inclusivity

Non-Christian staff and pupils who are present at acts of prayer and liturgy are asked to respect and support the prayers of others, by keeping silence and by adopting appropriate postures. At the same time, the school respects their religious integrity by not asking them to say the responses and prayers, to sing or to perform gestures (for example, making the Sign of the Cross) that do not correspond to their own faith. (See PLD Section 4.4.4. Members of other Religious Traditions)

At our school, and in recommendation from the PLD, it is inappropriate to ask someone who is not a Christian to lead Christian prayer or to perform a liturgical ministry. A teacher or member of staff who belongs to a different faith tradition would delegate to a teacher or classroom assistant or to pupils the task of leading prayer. The support of the school's Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator would be important in this situation, as the role of the class teacher at times necessarily extends to facilitating pupil preparation of prayer and liturgy.

Responsibilities

Governors

The governors are entrusted with ensuring that:

- Prayer and liturgy remain central to the Catholic life of the school.
- The school prayer and liturgy policy is regularly reviewed and shared with all stakeholders.
- Adequate resources and budgets are allocated to prayer and liturgy.

Head of School

The head of school, as the spiritual leader of the school, ensures:

- That prayer and liturgy are integral to school life and align with the guidelines of the Catholic Church.
- Partnership with the prayer and liturgy coordinator to ensure appropriate planning, formation, and delivery.
- Access to suitable resources and opportunities for staff formation in the areas of prayer and liturgy.

Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator/Lay Chaplain

The coordinator is responsible for ensuring that:

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the daily life of the school, aligned with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- There is an annual plan for prayer and liturgy across the school, with a focus on key liturgical seasons, celebrations, and sacraments.
- Pupils have opportunities to actively participate in prayer and liturgy, in ways that are developmentally appropriate.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of prayer and liturgy, with feedback integrated into future planning.
- 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 opportunities.
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the head of school and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school.
- There is collaboration with local clergy and parishes.

Content and Celebration

Structures

The structure we follow (PLD Section 7.2) which recurs across prayer and liturgy is one of call and response:

- Gather
- Word or Listen
- Response
- Send

To Gather we might just light a candle and be silent, or make the Sign of the Cross, or our gathering might be the Introductory Rites at Mass. For Liturgical Prayer, the context of the celebration may therefore affect the relative weight of the different parts. A leaving celebration, for example, may extend the dimension of Sending.

Annual Prayer and Liturgy Provision

(see School APOP which is regularly updated)

Annual Prayer and Liturgy Provision Summary

September	October – Month of the Rosary	November – Month of Remembrance
Welcome Liturgy for Staff September Devotion: Our Lady of Sorrows Sorrows School Commemorations: 42nd Anniversary of Minibus Crash. CST Focus: Dignity of the Human Person Catholic Life Briefings Themes: September the Month of Our Lady of Sorrows	October Devotion: The Month of the Rosary Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct 4) – Eco-themed- Collective Worship Harvest Mass and Year 7 Welcome Mass – Thanksgiving for Creation, SB Harvest Festival Appeal and First Mass for Year 7 CST Focus: Dignity of the Human Person Tutor Group Masses- Year 8: celebrations of Férias ,St. John Henry Newman, Memorial of Ignatius of Antioch	All Souls’ Day (Nov 2) – Creation of Stuart Bathurst Memorial Book of Remembrance. Students and Staff input of intentions. Remembrance Day (Nov 11) – Liturgy and 2 Mins Whole School Moment of Silence CST Focus: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable Catholic Life Briefings Themes: Remembrance Day, Stuart Bathurst Memory Book Tutor Group Masses: Years 8/9- Férias and Celebration of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December – Advent & Christmas	January	February
Advent Reconciliation Services each week Year group by Year Group (lighting of Advent wreath, Examination of Conscience, and opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation). Christmas Carol Performance and Liturgy- invite to CMAT schools, Parish Community and Families End of Term Christmas Mass- Advent Feria CST Focus: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable Catholic Life Briefings Themes: Remembrance Day,	Epiphany Liturgy – Online Mass, Streamed from School Chapel. Goodbye to the Jubilee Year- Pilgrims of Hope- BDES Online Liturgy and Service January Devotion: The Most Holy Name of Jesus Chapel Tutor Time Reflection- Themed on The Holy Name and Resolutions Tutor Group Masses: Year 9-, celebrations of Ss. Sebastian, Agnes, John Bosco, and Francis de Sales CST Focus- Solidarity and the Common Good –	Candlemas (Feb 2) – Collective Worship. Preparation for Lent Tutor Group Masses: Year 9-, Férias and celebrations of Ss Paul Miki and his Companions and Our Lady of Lourdes. February Devotion: The Holy Family CST Focus- Solidarity and the Common Good –
Lent (Feb/March – variable)	March / April – Holy Week & Easter	May – Month of Mary
Ash Wednesday Liturgy- undertaken during Half-Term Weekly Lenten Student Led Liturgies, Examination and Opportunities for Sacrament of Reconciliation Focus: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving (age-appropriate) CST Focus: Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers	March- Celebration of Bathurst Day March 13- Mass. Collective Worship Themes: Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Solemnity of the Annunciation, Feast of Saint Patrick Catholic Life Briefings Themes: Saint Joseph, Patron of Workers April Devotion: The Blessed Sacrament CST Focus: Rights and Responsibilities	CST Focus: Rights and Responsibilities Crowning of Mary – Chapel Tutor Prayer into Prayer Garden Solemnity of the Ascension- online Mass streamed from St Austin’s Parish, Stafford May Devotion: The Month of Mary Collective Worship Themes: English Martyrs, Our Lady of Fatima CST Focus: Rights and Responsibilities

June	July – End of Year
Feast of Corpus Christi – Pentecost Liturgy – Celebration of Multilingual Prayers June Devotion: Sacred Heart of Jesus – CST Focus: Stewardship of God’s Creation Year 11 and Year 13- Catholic Life Briefings Themes: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Ss Peter and Paul	End of Year Mass of Thanksgiving – Celebrating the Year’s Transition Liturgy – Growing into who God called you to Be. July Devotion: The Precious Blood of Jesus – CST Focus: Stewardship of God’s Creation Collective Worship themes: St Thomas the Apostle, Pier Giorgio Frassati

Daily Prayer

- Each day begins and ends with age-appropriate prayer, helping children connect with God and one another.
- Each Religious Education lesson begins with a prayer to invite God to help our learning. Other lessons throughout the curriculum could also include prayers.
- Prayers should be reverent, respectful, and prayerful and can be led by any member of the school community.
- Prayers offer children the opportunity for spiritual contemplation.
- Each class will have a dedicated prayer board and crucifix.

Liturgical Celebrations

- Liturgical seasons such as Advent, Lent, and Easter are celebrated through Liturgies, prayers, and school Masses.
- Important Catholic feast days and holy days are marked with reflective and joyful celebrations, ensuring that children understand the significance of the Church’s liturgical year.

Sacred Spaces

- Our school provides Sacred Spaces for prayer, including the Chapel and Multi-Faith Prayer Room.
- Religious images, including crucifixes and prayers, are present in classrooms, the theatre and around the school, creating an environment that reflects our Catholic ethos.

Forms of Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school and School Masses

- Weekly Celebration of the Word.
- Weekly Masses by Tutor Group of Fridays
- Year 7 and 12 Welcome Mass, Y11 leavers Mass, Christmas Mass, Easter Mass, and Bathurst Day
- Advent weekly Reconciliation Liturgy and Sacrament of Confession offered.
- Lent Liturgy weekly Reconciliation Liturgy and Sacrament of Confession offered.

- At the beginning of staff briefings, staff CPD, SLT meetings, and Trust meetings.
- Pupil-led Morning Prayer

See APOP on the school twitter account.

Different forms of prayer include:

- Liturgical prayer
- Reflective prayer, spontaneous/personal prayer
- Meditation
- Stations of the Cross
- Rosary
- May Processions in honour of Our Lady

Hymn Practice (Musical Celebration of the Word)

- Liturgically appropriate hymns
- Seasonal hymns
- New hymns learnt in class and for Masses and assemblies. Christmas/ Easter / Pentecost Celebration
- Advent / Christmas – Advent service of carols and readings
- Crowning of Mary – Procession

Resources

- Prayer books, liturgical music, and religious artefacts are provided to support prayer and liturgy throughout the school.
- All staff are trained and supported in using these resources to enrich the spiritual lives of our children.

Resources include:

- Bibles
- Banners
- Music
- Crosses and crucifixes
- Drapes (Liturgical colours)
- Statues and other religious artefacts
- Internet Displays
- Liturgically relevant posters
- Pupils' prayers, poems, and work – all abilities
- Topic related
- Seasonally liturgically related.

Scripture

Scripture is displayed around the school and words from scripture are used every day in SAINT. Children are regularly provided and encouraged to read and listen to scripture.

Scripture is found in:

- Displays around the school.
- Creative use of Scripture in worship and R.E.
- Parents and parishioners are invited to key Masses in the school year.
- Parents and parishioners are invited to attend all Christmas and Easter celebrations.
- School and class Masses are planned with the School Priest and other priests of the Deanery.

Training and Formation

- All staff members, especially new staff, receive induction and ongoing formation to ensure they are equipped to lead and support prayer and liturgy in the school.
- Regular professional development opportunities are provided to ensure staff understand the centrality of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school and are confident in leading it.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Prayer and liturgy are regularly monitored to ensure that they are engaging and meeting the spiritual needs of our pupils.
- Feedback from pupils, parents, staff, and clergy is used to continually improve our provision for prayer and liturgy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in supporting the spiritual development of our pupils. The review process will involve consultation with key stakeholders, including staff, governors, and the wider school community.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

All staff follow our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies. Sensitive issues are handled with discretion, and children are always reminded that safeguarding concerns must be shared with trusted adults.

Equality and Inclusion

We believe every child is uniquely created by God. Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance, and justice for all. Lessons are adapted to ensure full access for children with SEND and EAL and are delivered in line with Catholic social teaching of human dignity.