

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A guide to Prayer and Liturgy



*To love, serve and learn as
Jesus shows us*

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TO LOVE YOU MORE DEARLY

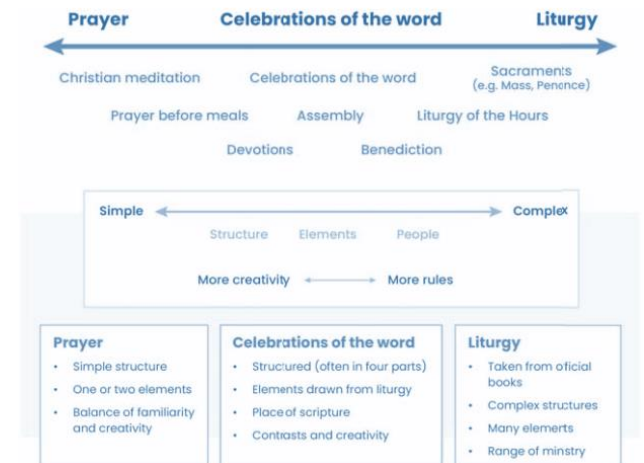
*"For where two or three are gathered in
my name, I am there among them"
(Matthew 18:20)*

To ensure that the Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre of our Catholic school, prayer and liturgy is at the heart of our school life and mission.

Parents are the first teachers of their children in faith, and the spiritual life of our school complements the role of the parish in supporting parents in this faith journey as a family.

At St Vincent's, prayer and liturgy takes a range of forms, each with its own character, form and content to offer children a breadth of opportunity to turn to, and encounter God in prayer.

Prayer, celebration of the word, and liturgy for a continuum:





Prayer

Prayer has been traditionally described as 'lifting up of the hearts and minds to God', which means it involves our whole person – our head as well as our heart. Staff and children are invited to recognise God's action in their lives and the life of the school, and in response to express together their needs and those of the whole human family, and to offer thanks for all that is good. The prayer life of staff and children at St Vincent's is two-fold:

Communal prayer takes place:

At the start of the day

Before lunch

At the end of the day

Such prayer times have a clear, simple structure and are familiar both in the words used and the routine.

There are also times for spontaneous prayer, or other prayer traditions to add variety and opportunity for creativity, or to engage children in long-standing Catholic devotions which are suitable at certain times during the liturgical year:

	Common prayers	Other forms of prayer
Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Amen ✠ Sign of the cross ✠ Glory Be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Spontaneous prayer ✠ Litany ✠ Prayers of intercession ✠ Reflection on religious music / art
Key Stage 1	<i>All the above, plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Our Father ✠ Hail Mary ✠ Gloria 	<i>All the above, plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Reflection on Common Prayers ✠ The Examen
Lower Key Stage 2	<i>All the above, plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Apostles Creed ✠ Nicene Creed ✠ Act of Contrition ✠ Angel of God ✠ Prayer to the Holy Spirit ✠ The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester 	<i>All the above, plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Lectio Divina
Upper Key Stage 2	<i>All the above, plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Morning Offering ✠ Eternal Rest ✠ Act of Faith ✠ Act of Hope ✠ Act of Love ✠ The Magnificat ✠ The Rosary ✠ Angelus ✠ The Confiteor (I Confess) 	<i>All the above, plus...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Stations of the Cross ✠ Christian meditation



Celebration of the Word

As the time allotted to prayer lengthens and the number of people involved grows, there is a corresponding need for more formal structures. The term 'Celebration of the Word' is used for celebrations which are created for the school community and not directly taken from the liturgical books of the Church. These celebrations follow a more formal structure of:

Gather → Listen → Respond → Go forth

and use elements of a liturgy (texts, symbols, gestures) but are always focused on the proclamation of Scripture, but with greater freedom and creativity.

Celebration of the Word takes place both in class and as a whole school, and forms the basis of assemblies, services, and other gatherings for special times and occasions.

Children will progress in the level to which they engage, participate and lead Celebration of the Word as they move through the school so that by the time they reach Upper Key Stage 2, they have the skills and knowledge to plan and lead Celebration of the Word in class for their peers.

Themes for Celebration of the Word are taken from the liturgical calendar and whole school Celebration of the Word on a Monday will reflect the Sunday Gospel or a Holy Day of Obligation / Feast Day if celebrated when children are not in school.

	Holy Day celebration of the word	Sacraments	School Masses
September			Mission Day Mass (Feast of St Vincent)
October			
November		Year 5 and 6 Reconciliation during Advent	All Saints Day Advent Mass
December		First Reconciliation	
January	Epiphany Baptism of Jesus		
February	Candlemas		
March	St Joseph Annunciation	Year 4, 5 and 6 Reconciliation during Lent	
April			
May	Ascension	First Holy Communion	
June	Pentecost Holy Trinity Body & Blood of the Lord		St Peter and Paul
July			Mass of Thanksgiving



Liturgy

The most familiar forms of the liturgy celebrated in school are the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The liturgical books, such as the Roman Missal and the Lectionary, set out the structure to be followed, the words to be spoken, the gestures to be performed, and the symbols to be used when celebrating a liturgy.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated for the first time during Advent when children are in Year 4 following a period of formation led by Parish catechists and schools staff alongside parents/carers.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will then be offered during Advent and Lent for all children in Year 4, 5 and 6.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist will be celebrated for the first time during the Summer Term for children in Year 4 following a period of formation led by Parish catechists and schools staff alongside parents/carers.

Masses will be celebrated throughout the year as a whole school to mark school celebrations and Holy Days / Seasons of the Liturgical calendar. Other Masses will be celebrated throughout the year, for example monthly early morning Mass, and class Masses.