



# Prayer and Liturgy

Revised: December 2023



## **Our Foundation Statement proclaims:**

*The School willingly accepts its responsibility to provide opportunities for the formation of each person in the community through the mission of integrating human development and the values of Christ*

**"For where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst."**

**Matthew 18:20**

## **What we believe**

*"The declared aims of the School are to foster a growth and commitment to the love and service of Christ through the teachings, doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church" (Foundation Statement)*

## **Introduction**

Prayer and liturgy are a central and continuing part of our Catholic faith and identity and therefore are a fundamental aspect of our daily lives at Cardinal Allen. It is the means by which we maintain our relationship with God who is the source of our life. It is the principal way in which we share with each other the faith upon which our school community is built. Each member of the school community is unique in terms of her or his spiritual needs, faith development, interests, and motivation. The belief that is fundamental to the foundation of Cardinal Allen School is that we are called to know, love and serve God as Our Father in a living relationship with the Risen Christ, and which is sustained through the enduring power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer and liturgy is therefore an essential part of the school's life. In addition, as a public sector school, we are bound by statutory requirement to provide for a daily act of worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Act. It is impossible to gather the whole school together on a daily basis. However, the school provides a variety of opportunities for shared prayer and worship. All our pupils are entitled to share in the full prayer life of the school. All our staff are expected to ensure that our prayer times are observed in a calm and dignified manner at appropriate times every day. This expectation is

made of all colleagues, whatever their religious affiliation or curriculum area. If any colleague needs advice on these matters the Chaplaincy Coordinator, Curriculum Leader for RE and the Headteacher will provide support and assistance. The school provides all staff with the resources needed for classroom prayer. Normal practice will be to use the Form Room, the School Hall and the Chapel. But there will be occasions when it is appropriate to conduct prayers elsewhere. A spirit of reverence enabling participants to meet God should be observed whenever prayers take place.

## Our aims

**Prayer and liturgy should provide a variety of experiences including scripture and/or silence:**

- Can be led by pupils, staff, or visitors
- Can be offered for a class, a year group or the whole school
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, scripture, prayers, responses, songs, music, dance, drama, 'power point' presentation or short address
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols, and lighting
- Ensure the theme, delivery, length, and resources are appropriate to the interests, age, background and abilities of the pupils
- Set an appropriate tone with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Encourage the free, conscious, active participation of all present.

## Sacramental Liturgy

### Catholic Mass

The Church teaches that celebrating the Mass is the "source and summit" of our faith. There are always fully detailed guide booklets available when attending Mass to follow. Members of our school community serve at Mass in different ways; reading, ministering, or other responsibilities for preparing for and clearing down afterwards.

**Friday Morning Mass:** Mass begins at 8.15am and lasts around 20-25 minutes. All are warmly welcome. Each Department in school will have a Mass offered for their intentions.

**Whole School Mass:** On the last day of the Autumn and Summer terms we gather in the Sports Hall for Mass as a whole school community. During the final week of the Spring Term, prior to Easter, pupils gather in year groups for Holy Week Liturgies. Pupils are involved with readings, music and preparing the space. School Governors and friends of the school are invited to share in the celebration too.

**Class Masses:** In order to deepen our pupils' understanding of Mass, there is an individual 'Class Mass' for each form group in Year 7, 8 and 9. As this is obviously smaller, it enables the Class to be fully involved in the preparations, for the Priest to go into greater detail at the different parts of the Mass, and for them to enjoy the celebration in our Chapel.

**Feast Day Masses:** During the Liturgical Year there are several Feast Days which Catholics across the world celebrate Mass on. This academic year we are in school for: All Saints Day – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, The Immaculate Conception – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, and The Ascension – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Years 8, 9 and 10 will celebrate these as year group Masses in the Sports Hall. Pupils are involved with readings, music and setting up the space.

**Mass of Welcome / Year 11 Leavers' Mass:** These are important celebrations at the start and end of a pupil's time at Cardinal Allen. Family, friends, pupils and staff are invited to these Masses and they are truly inspirational occasions.

**Masses in the Community:** There are several opportunities throughout the year when Cardinal Allen pupils and staff lead or make a marked contribution to the liturgical life of our Deanery. These include Youth Masses to mark National Youth Sunday, a Deanery Advent Service, and Masses to celebrate the Easter season in our Deanery Parishes, and at Cardinal Allen. These occasions are seen as important in reminding our community of the impact and value of Youth Ministry of pupils at Cardinal Allen.

### **Reconciliation**

Each pupil and member of staff is given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school each Lent. Where possible, the Sacrament will be offered at other planned times in conjunction with the availability of the Clergy of the Deanery.

## **Prayer**

Following a structure of prayer is integral to the school day. Each week follows a theme, which is drawn from the previous Sunday's Gospel. "Collective Worship" is the term commonly used to describe times of prayer together.

**Prayer in the morning:** Beginning the day with prayer invites the Holy Spirit to inspire our words and actions for the day. Form tutors must begin the day with a prayer. This can be a formal prayer, a spontaneous prayer, or one read from a prayer book.

One morning each week is a dedicated time of Collective Worship for each form: Years 7 and 8 – Monday, Year 9 – Tuesday, Year 10 – Wednesday, and Year 11 – Thursday. Resources are prepared by the Chaplain, and often, members of the School Mission Team. On some days, the reflection may come in the form of a video or piece of music. There is opportunity for group discussion, the chance to hear the Word and reflect on what it means for each of us today, and a time for personal prayer.

**Prayer throughout the day:** It is typical for Catholics to follow a pattern of prayer throughout the day. This provides the opportunity to pause and think about who we are, who God is, and how we are acting and responding to others. At the beginning or end of a lesson you may want to come together as a class and say the Our Father, Hail Mary or Glory Be. At the end of the lesson before lunch, we say "grace", thanking God for all that He provides. At the end of the day there are several prayers you may wish to say to thank God for all that He has done. You may also choose to pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be or Guardian Angel Prayer. These are set prayers that the Church has been saying for thousands of years. They help Catholics to come together and worship as part of a community. These can be said alone, knowing that thousands of people across the world are praying them too, or with others. Pupils join together in prayer at the following times: morning registration, Grace before lunch, and at the end of the day. Prayer at any other time is optional.

**Staff Prayer:** Staff are invited to gather in the Chapel to pray together every Tuesday morning at 8:25am. All staff are warmly welcome. The weekly Staff Briefing will open with a prayer relevant to the prayer theme for the week.

**Hall Assemblies:** Each year group attends an assembly in the hall one morning per week. These assemblies are treated as an act of collective worship, and follow the prayer theme of the week. There will sometimes be a 'business function' to these assemblies, but time for prayer will always be the main aspect of the assembly.

**"Chapel":** pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11 attend Chapel during morning registration on a rotation, where they are encouraged to take the time to both reflect on themselves as people, but also to look outside of themselves – to the world outside of Fleetwood, and their place in it. Pupils will attend at least one Chapel assembly each half term, which will be delivered by a member of staff, or members of the School Mission Team or another pupil group.

**The Blessed Sacrament & Tabernacle:** We ‘reserve’ the Blessed Sacrament in our Tabernacle. This means that our Chapel is truly the House of God, He is truly present and with us. You may see some members of our community genuflecting as they enter or leave the Chapel.

**Other use of the Chapel:** In order for our Chapel to remain a sacred, peaceful sanctuary in school, it isn’t to be used to hold meetings or just as a space to be used to take a class into. Over the course of the year, there may be topics or areas in certain subjects where the Chapel could be an appropriate place to deliver a lesson, or invite an external speaker in to talk, or used as a space for reflection or a service. This is mostly common in RE, History and LIFE.

## The role of children

Children of all abilities are encouraged to play an active role in the liturgical life of the school and take part in Masses and non-sacramental liturgies. This may range from being a Eucharistic Minister, a Reader, a Singer or a Musician through to participating in offertory processions. Our pupils are invited to lead Form prayers, at least from time to time. Pupils are encouraged to ask for their own personal intentions to be remembered, for example, praying for a sick relative, or for success for the whole class as exams approach. We are the Church gathered, working in partnership with our families and parishes and sharing in our Church’s great educational project which is to pass on a knowledge and love of our Faith to the next generation. We are committed as a school within the Catholic faith tradition to supporting social cohesion and recognising, affirming and celebrating the diverse nature of our society. This ethos is transparent in our curricular and extra-curricular work. It can also be seen in our approach to liturgy, religious education and the practical application of our faith through:

- Our Option for the Poor and Marginalised which is sustained through CAFOD, Fairtrade and other agencies
- Our openness to, respect for, and desire to learn about other religious and cultural traditions, resourcing opportunities for these experiences to happen.

## The right to withdraw

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. We remain responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or collective worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE, or taking part in collective worship elsewhere. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The Headteacher will clarify the following matters with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- the religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught;
- the practical implications of withdrawal;
- the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents’ wishes;
- if a parent will require any advanced notice of such issues in the future and if so, how much.

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