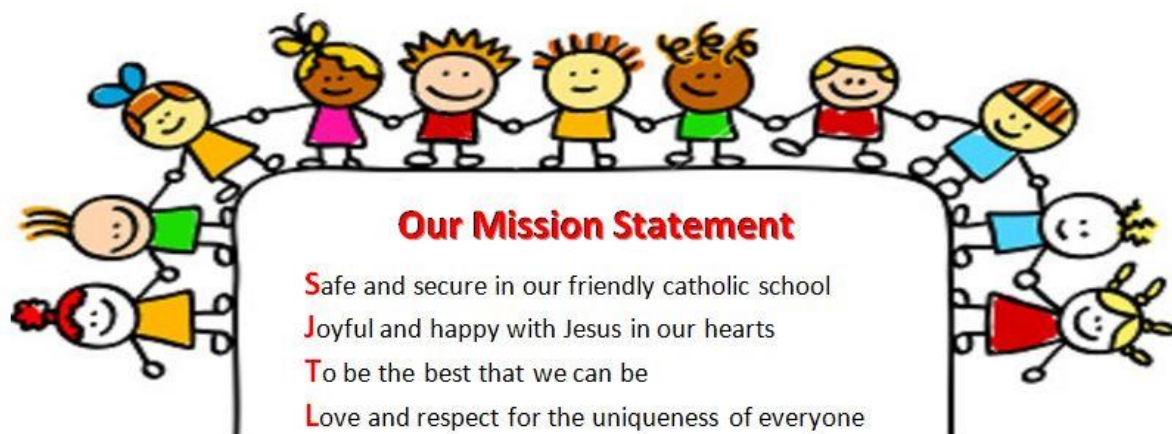


St James the Less RC Primary School

ST. JAMES THE LESS



Prayer and Liturgy Policy Updated 2026



Our Mission Statement

Safe and secure in our friendly catholic school
Joyful and happy with Jesus in our hearts
To be the best that we can be
Love and respect for the uniqueness of everyone

Prayer and Worship Policy

Intent

At St James the Less RC Primary School, prayer and worship are at the heart of our Catholic life and mission. While closely linked with the Religious Education curriculum, prayer and worship are distinct expressions of our faith, offering pupils and staff opportunities to encounter Christ, grow in holiness, and participate fully in the life of the Church.

Guided by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory for Catholic Schools, we aim to ensure that every child and adult is invited into full, conscious, and active participation in prayer and liturgy, appropriate to their age and understanding. Prayer and worship permeate our school community, shaping our ethos, strengthening our partnership with families and parish, and nurturing a living faith that inspires witness and service.

Through prayer and worship we:

- Provide varied opportunities for both communal worship and personal prayer.
- Enrich the spiritual life of pupils and staff, encouraging awe, reverence, and reflection.
- Encourage pupil leadership and active involvement in planning, preparing, and leading prayer and liturgy.
- Celebrate and strengthen the partnership between home, school, and parish.
- Ensure prayer and worship are inclusive, respectful of all present, and rooted in the Catholic tradition.

Objectives

Through prayer and liturgy we seek to:

- Deepen each child's awareness of God's presence and love.
- Foster a sense of belonging within the school, parish, and wider Church community.
- Cultivate respect for sacred places, times, objects, and actions.
- Develop appreciation of silence, stillness, and reflection as forms of prayer.
- Provide a firm foundation in the liturgical life of the Church, following the rhythm of the liturgical year.
- Introduce pupils to the richness of Catholic traditions and devotions.
- Inspire Gospel-centred living, encouraging pupils to follow Jesus' example in word and action.

Prayer and worship at St James the Less will take diverse forms – Celebration of the Word, daily classroom prayer, meditation, silence, and seasonal liturgies – ensuring that all pupils encounter Christ, grow in faith, and are sent forth to witness to the Gospel in their lives.

What it looks like in our school

Prayer and worship form the heartbeat of our week at St James the Less RC Primary School. Following the guidance of the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, our provision is regular, varied, inclusive, and rooted in the Catholic tradition.

- **Monday – Whole School Celebration of the Word**

We begin each week gathered together as a school family to listen to the Word of God. Scripture is proclaimed, reflected upon, and applied to our lives. This celebration provides the foundation for the week, uniting pupils and staff in shared prayer and mission.

- **During the Week – Class Prayer and Worship**

Each class celebrates at least one **Celebration of the Word**, planned around Scripture and the liturgical year. Alongside this, pupils experience other forms of prayer, including:

- meditation and stillness,
- reflective and spontaneous prayer,
- moments of silence, and
- traditional Catholic prayers and devotions.

These times of prayer are simple, age-appropriate, and foster both participation and reverence. As children mature, they are encouraged to take a greater role in preparing, leading, and reflecting on these celebrations, in keeping with the Directory's call for full, conscious, and active participation.

- **Friday – Gospel Reflection and Go Forth Message**

At the end of the week, the Gospel is proclaimed over the Tanoy system. This provides the whole school with a shared moment of reflection, drawing attention to the message of Jesus and how we can live it out. The "Go Forth" challenge reminds us that prayer and liturgy are not only celebrated but lived, sending us out in mission and service.

Through this rhythm of whole school, class, and personal prayer, we ensure that every child has regular opportunities to encounter Christ, grow in faith, and live the Gospel in daily life.

Prayer and Liturgy – Legal Requirements

In line with statutory requirements, all pupils must take part in a daily act of worship. This may take place at any point during the school day and may be celebrated as a whole-school gathering or within smaller groups, according to the needs of the community.

As a voluntary aided Catholic school, St Peter's recognises that worship is more than a legal obligation: it is the heartbeat of our Catholic life and mission. Guided by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*, we

understand what is commonly referred to in legislation as “collective worship” in the specifically Catholic sense of prayer and liturgy. This is central to the identity of the school and is the responsibility of the Governing Body, exercised in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that it is provided in accordance with the rites, practices, and norms of the Catholic Church.

Parents and carers retain the right to withdraw their child from participation in prayer and liturgy. Any such request should be made in writing to the Headteacher. While respecting this right, we affirm that prayer and liturgy are fundamental to the formation and daily experience of our pupils, shaping both the ethos of the school and the spiritual development of the community.

Our Community

Prayer and liturgy at St James the Less are strengthened through the active involvement of our parish and families. Parishioners and parents are warmly invited to join us in celebrating Masses and liturgical events, ensuring that worship is a shared expression of faith across generations. We also host special Masses for local parishioners, where we come together in prayer and then extend our hospitality by serving tea afterwards, deepening our sense of fellowship and service. Parishioners also play a special role as prayer sponsors for children preparing to receive the Sacraments, supporting them through prayer and example. Each term, we welcome families into school for “Pray and Stay” gatherings, creating opportunities to pray together, reflect, and nurture the bond between home, school, and parish. Our commitment to wider community links is also seen in the commissioning of our pupil chaplains, who are sent out in mission at a special Mass celebrated with chaplains from across our cluster of schools, affirming both their service and our shared Catholic identity.

Recording

The life of prayer and liturgy within our school is recorded and celebrated in a variety of ways, including:

- RE folders which capture plans, prayers, and reflections.
- Displays and collections of pupils’ contributions, including written prayers, artwork, reflections, and photographs.
- The weekly school newsletter, where the prayer focus is shared with the wider school community.
- The school website, which highlights key celebrations and provides a window into our prayer and worship life.

Monitoring

Prayer and Liturgy are regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure they are meaningful, inclusive, and in keeping with the Church’s liturgical norms. Monitoring includes observation of worship, review of planning, and resources, and the collection of feedback from pupils, staff and governors. This process focuses not only on provision but also on impact, considering how prayer and liturgy foster spiritual growth and engagement across the school community. Findings are reported to the headteachers and governors and used to inform future development.

Reviewed Autumn 2025

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



Date _____ Theme _____

Prepared by _____

1. SCRIPTURE (Listen)

2. SACRED SPACE (Including Gathering)

3. SYMBOL AND SYMBOLIC ACTION

4. SILENCE

5. SENSES

6. SPEAK TO GOD IN PRAYER (Including Going Forth)

How did it go?

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Postures and gestures

Bread and Wine

Water

Oil

Light(candle)

Altar

Alpha and Omega

Anointing

Ashes

Blessing

Bowing

Cross

Dove

Flowers

Fire

Genuflecting

Holy water

Incense



Kiss

Laying of hands

Light, dark

Mountain

Music

Paintings

Prostrating

Rosary beads

Silence

Sitting

Standing

Space

Sign of peace

Sign of the Cross

Stained glass

Stations of the Cross

Statues

Vestments

Wheat

Washing feet

Always include:

A passage of scripture
THE WORD OF GOD

It might be a story or just one line!

- Remember...liturgy just happens!
- It's not a lesson or an assembly.
- Let everything speak for itself!
- Prepare and explain!

Choose a line from a Psalm
For example:

A pure heart create for me O God
Help me to be kind
A pure heart create for me O God
Help me to be friendly
A pure heart create for me O God
Help me to be thoughtful
A pure heart create for me O God
Help me to be caring
A pure heart create for me O God

YouTube: great resources. Search for meditations, animated Bible stories, film clips.

Pass a feely cross around:

Thank you God for ... Please
bless...
Look after ...

Or repeat a short phrase 3 times:

I love you Jesus x3
Thank you God for my friends x3
Look after me today x3

SILENCE

Teach it! Practice it! Don't
presume it will just happen!

IDEAS FOR CLASSROOM PRAYER



Prayer focus resources

Candle

Bible

Cloths (green, red, purple, blue, white or gold)

Statue

Picture or statue of your school patron

Icon

Rosary beads

Feely cross

Incense or Diffuser sticks

Small basket

Age appropriate prayer book

Bell

Blank book for pupils own prayers

Bowl for water



We pray for...the sick
those who are lonely
peace

That...

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer

Most importantly...JOIN IN!

Don't be a spectator!

As role models, we have something
wonderful to share.

Our pupils value and appreciate this.

6 ELEMENTS OF LITURGY FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



1. SCRIPTURE

Always read something from the Bible.
It is God speaking to us!
It could be a story, a parable
or a short verse or line.



3. SPEAK to GOD

Pray! This is speaking to God.
It might be a prayer you already know,
one you have written, or one from a
book.

5. SENSES

LISTEN to; prayer, scripture, music.
SEE; candles and a symbol
TOUCH; a feely cross, Holy Water
SMELL; incense, candle
These help us create a sacred space and
become closer to God.



2. SYMBOL

We become closer to God through
signs and symbols.
Have something to look at,
display a colour,
and let everyone take part in symbolic action.

4. SILENCE

A little quiet time gives us the opportunity
to speak to God quietly in the silence of
our hearts.



6. SACRED SPACE

Create a special space for your Liturgy.
Sit together, get rid of books and water
bottles! Move furniture.



Twelve well known Bible stories

1. The Lost Sheep
When we do wrong, we turn away from God. But he wants us to come back to him.
2. Zacchaeus
God loves sinners. He would like them to be sorry and make good what they have done.
3. The man who came in through the roof God can do anything!
4. Jesus feeds the 5000
He does wonderful things. He really cares for us!
5. The Good Samaritan
You should put aside your differences and help anyone in need.
6. Jesus heals Blind Bartimaeus God rewards true faith in Him.
7. The Prodigal Son
We can all be forgiven, whatever we have done. God celebrates when we seek forgiveness.
8. Jairus' Daughter Shows the power of God.
9. The Widow's offering
Shows her humble love for the Lord and teaches us the true meaning of giving.
10. The Mustard Seed How the kingdom of heaven will grow.
11. Jesus goes fishing Always trust in the power of Jesus.
12. The ten lepers It's important to say 'Thank you'

20 Themes for Class Celebrations of the Word



<u>1. Love each other</u>	Isaiah 58:3-8	1 Thessalonians 5:12-17
<u>2. Help us to share</u>	Acts 2 :44-47	Luke 3:10-11
<u>3. Being Sorry</u>	Matthew 3:2-6	Joel 2:12-13
<u>4. Working hard</u>	Romans 12:8, 10-13	Luke 19:12-22
<u>5. Helping others</u>	Isaiah 58;3,4,7,8	Romans 8:16-20
<u>6. Forgiveness</u>	Colossians 3:12-13	Luke 17:3-4
<u>7. Talents</u>	Romans 12 :6-8	Psalms 150:2-6
<u>8. Trust in God</u>	Luke 12:6-7	Luke 12:27-28
<u>9. Being good followers</u>	Philippians 3:8-10	Psalms 14; 2-3
<u>10 Saying 'thank you.'</u>	Colossians 3:16-17	Luke 17:11-19
<u>11. Don't argue</u>	Isaiah 58;9-11	Mark 9:33-35
<u>12. Friends with God</u>	Titus 3:4-7	Titus 15:15-17
<u>13. Thanks for Creation</u>	John 4:35-36	Genesis 1:1-3
<u>14.. Care for Creation</u>	Mark 4:26-28	Mark:4:30-33
<u>15. The poor</u>	Isaiah 58;3-8	Psalms 71:12-14
<u>16. For Peace</u>	Romans 12:10,13,18	John 14:27
<u>17. Those who are sick</u>	Jeremiah 30:10-17	Mark 2:1-6,11,12
<u>18. Children in need</u>	Mark 5:22-24, 35-43	Mark 10:13-16
<u>19. The elderly</u>	Luke 2: 23	John 19:25-27
<u>20. Those who have died</u>	1 Thessalonians 4:13,14,17	Mark 9:33-35

SIMPLE
'CIRCLE TIME'
PRAYERS



PRAYERS TO SAY 3 TIMES

Jesus I love you
Jesus watch over me
Jesus I am sorry
Jesus you are special
Jesus be with us today
Loving God thank you for
making me
Loving God please bless me
Father you are wonderful
Father look after me
Hail Mary, full of grace
Holy Family pray for us
Loving Lord watch over us
Loving Lord be with us

FEELY CROSS PRAYERS

Jesus I am sorry for...
Jesus show me the way to...
Jesus I'd like to tell you...
Jesus you are...
Loving Lord please look after...
Loving God thank you for...
Loving God you are wonderful
because...
Heavenly Father please bless...
Father please watch
over...
Heavenly Father you are ...
Loving Lord help me to...
Loving Father please...
Father in Heaven please look after.

Ways to start a prayer



Loving...God/Father/Lord

Almighty...
All powerful
Compassionate
Creator
Divine
Everlasting
Eternal
Faithful
Forgiving
Heavenly
Healing
Holy
Kind
Merciful
Saving
Understanding

Eg.

Almighty and Everlasting God

Merciful Lord

Loving Father

God/Father/Lord of all...

Creation
Compassion
Comfort
Consolation
The Earth
Forgiveness
Healing
Justice
Light
Mercy
Might
Power
Refuge
Peace
Trust
Wisdom

Eg.

God of all compassion

Lord of all light

Father of all Creation

If the prayer is directed to the Father: • *Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...*

If it is directed to the Father, but the Son is mentioned at the end: • *Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...*

If it is directed to the Son: • *Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...*



MEDITATION IN CLASS



1. NATURE MEDITATION

Reflect on the wonders of God's creation.

2. VIDEO MEDITATION

Allow images and sounds to take you closer to God.

3. IMAGINATIVE PRAYER

Put yourself in the scene. Be close to Jesus!

4. DAILY EXAMEN

Take a couple of minutes at the end of the day...

5. ART MEDITATION

Colour an icon and listen to a passage of Scripture. What words or phrases do you notice! What is God saying to you?

6. SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION

Reflect on a short passage from the Bible. Take your time and share your thoughts with God.

7. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At each Station, think about what Jesus has done for us.

8. LECTIO DIVINA

Listen to the Word of God 2 or 3 times. What do you notice?
What is God saying to you?

9. THE ROSARY

Pray a decade of the Rosary and think about Jesus' life and what message He might be giving to you!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLASS PRAYER IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY



EYFS

The words and actions of the sign of the cross:

‘In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen’.

Simple ‘circle time’ prayers, repeated 3 times:

God made me.

God loves me.

God loves everyone.

God made the wonderful world.

God is love.

Jesus look after me.

Look after God’s world.

I am sorry Jesus.

Key religious words and phrases from Scripture, hymns, and prayers.

Listen attentively and respond to Bible and religious stories

Express themselves when responding to songs and hymns they have listened to and learned.

Say sorry.

Shake hands to share peace with their friends.

Repeat and enjoy phrases from Scripture, including psalms and hymns.

Sing and perform a range of rhymes, songs, and new and traditional hymns

YEAR 1

Reflect the Our Father and the opening words of the Creed

Hear and join in Hail Mary

Some simple words, actions, and symbols from the Ash Wednesday liturgy and the Palm Sunday liturgy.

The words of the ‘Glory Be’ prayer.

An age-appropriate hymn referencing the Holy Spirit.

YEAR 2

Psalms are prayers of praise to God

Some words of Mary’s prayer, the Magnificat

How water is used as a symbol of a new start in the Sacrament of Baptism.

How Catholics say sorry to God in prayers:

Act of Sorrow (Contrition)

Asking for forgiveness in the ‘Our Father’

A simple Examen or an act of sorrow and in the Penitential rite, for example, the Kyrie Eleison (Lord have Mercy).

Some simple words, actions, and symbols of the Easter Vigil, focusing on light and water.

Christians pray to the Holy Spirit for help (‘Come Holy Spirit’).

YEAR 3

Extracts from a psalm of Creation.

How the praise of Creation is expressed in the prayer and Liturgy of the Church

Eg sFrancis's Canticle of the Creatures; the Offertory prayers; a Prayer for our Earth in Laudato Si').

How Catholics use some signs, actions, prayers, and symbols to celebrate Mass, e.g., the sign of the cross, bells, the Kyrie Eleison prayer, etc.

Hear some of the responses Catholics say at Mass, focusing on the Liturgy of the Word.

How Advent hymns celebrate Jesus as the coming Messiah (e.g., O Little town of Bethlehem; Long ago prophets knew; O come, divine Messiah; O come, O come Emmanuel).

Our Father

Some prayers and responses Catholics say during Mass.

Some prayers and responses Catholics sing during the Eucharistic Prayer.

Some ways people celebrate their first Eucharist (First Holy Communion).

Sign of the Cross

YEAR 4

Age-appropriate extracts from prayers of faith in God from the Catholic tradition. (For example, Ps 40:1, the St Therese prayer, 'May today there be peace within', St John Henry Newman's 'Mission of my Life', Bl Charles de Foucauld's 'Prayer of Abandonment'.)

'He will come again in glory' from the Nicene Creed.

The Apostles Creed

Some Marian prayers or hymns, e.g., Hail Mary, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Magnificat, Ave Maria.

YEAR 5

Some words of Psalm 23 to speak or sing.

O Antiphons

O come O come Emmanuel

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Prayers of Petition

Our Father

Virtues of Faith, hope and love

What the ashes on Ash Wednesday symbolise.

A simple examen and/or act of contrition.

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful' prayer.

YEAR 6

Nicene Creed

Magnificat

Stations of the Cross

Act of Faith. Hope and



A PROGRESION OF CLASS LITURGIES

EYFS

Listen to scripture

Take part in circle prayer with help

Participate in short periods of silence

YEAR 1

Lay out altar with help

Listen to scripture

Take part in circle prayer with help

Participate in short periods of silence.

YEAR 2

Lay out altar

Help select and read scripture

Make up own circle prayer

Increasing comfort with periods of silence

YEAR 3

Lay out altar with some guidance.

Select theme for scripture.

Make own circle prayer and use symbols.

Spend time in silence.

YEAR 4

Set up altar independently

Prepare reading and psalm (help may be given)

Improvise circle prayer.

Select prayers for use

Using ICT, select images to be used for reflection.

YEAR 5/6

Set up altar independently, being increasingly creative.

Select reading and prayers from a variety of sources (Bible, books, workbooks, web etc.)

Compose prayers in different styles to match given needs.

Match prayers and readings with a given theme.

Prayers become increasingly detailed in what they are asking for, the reasons why, and what they want the outcome to be.

Create ICT aids (eg powerpoints/photostory)

Search for visual aids(eg from a bank of Youtube videos / Google image/CADOD resources)

Invent own symbolic actions.

Spend increasing amounts of time in silence.

- *As soon as pupils are able, allow them to prepare, lead and pray independently, assisting only where needed.*