



# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## Prayer and Liturgy      September 2022

*'Our schools must be worshipping communities, for true worship in spirit and truth is a sign of our living as a Christian community'*  
(Our Catholic Schools – Mgr Kevin McGinnell)

We believe that prayer brings everyone together into the presence of God. It is a vital part of our life and draws us together as a community; it is our loving response, in word and action to God. Therefore, we aim to implement our mission statement, 'Working together in the light of the Lord' through thought, word and deed.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but there will always be an opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual development.

### **Aims**

- to give the children in our care the opportunities to explore their feelings and attitudes towards different life experiences
- to help them towards a deepening relationship with God
- to help staff develop their prayer life and spirituality
- to help parents develop their prayer life and spirituality
- to come together as a caring community to pray, reflect, celebrate, praise, worship, thank and recognise God in our lives.

### **Strategies**

**Collective Worship** takes place throughout the school on a daily basis in whole school, year groups or classroom context:

- Monday – Key Stage Collective Worship led by members of SLT
- Tuesday - Class based led by class teachers / pupils
- Wednesday - Worship through Hymns.
- Thursday - Key Stage Collective Worship led by class teachers
- Friday – Key Stage celebration assembly led by members of SLT
- House Captains plan, prepare and lead collective worship every half term.
- Beginning and end of term whole school Collective Worship led by Headteacher.
- Faith Ambassadors plan, prepare and lead collective worship every half term
- Class led Collective Worship is open to parents and governors are on a rotation throughout the school year.
- At the end of the Advent Term the Reception children lead a special Nativity assembly.
- At the end of Advent term, The School Choir, School Council, Faith Ambassadors and Head Boy & Girl take part in the Carol Concert.

- Year 3 lead an Easter reflection at the end of the Lent Term.
- The Parish Priest makes weekly visits to each class on a rotational basis to share their Collective Worship.

### **Mass**

We believe that the celebration of Holy Mass should draw together all the elements of liturgy with clear simple themes, using language and music appropriate to our community. Some of our children have yet to receive the Eucharist, therefore we aim to give them experiences of age appropriate forms of worship e.g. assemblies, liturgies of the Word etc.

- Staff Mass at the beginning of each School Year.
- KS2 Mass and KS1 Liturgy for the children at the beginning of the School Year.
- Deanery staff mass
- Key Stage Masses and Class Liturgies are held in school on some Holy Days and other special occasions. The Parish Priest of St Martin's, supported by other priests and deacons in the Deanery, celebrates on these occasions.
- Diocesan Schools Mass.
- Friday masses at St Martin's Church are attended by Key Stage 2 year groups on a rota basis. Year 3 are included in this once they have made their First Holy Communion.
- Thanksgiving First Communion Mass.
- End of Year Thanksgiving Leavers Mass.

### **Opportunities for prayer**

We believe that children should be given different opportunities to pray both adult led and spontaneously. This is provided in a variety of ways.

- Prayers in class three times a day: morning, lunch and end of day.
- Prayer station in Key Stage 2 hall
- Prayer boxes in Key Stage 2 and EYFS classes
- Prayer trees in each Key Stage outdoor areas
- Weekly prayer session before school
- During collective worship
- As part of RE lessons
- Meditation

