



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy

September 2026

‘Working together in the Light of the Lord’

1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

At St. Martin de Porres Primary School, we believe that prayer and liturgy are at the heart of our Catholic identity, bringing us together in the presence of God. Prayer is an essential part of our community life, a response to God’s call in word and action. Through prayer, we deepen our relationship with God, grow as a community, and strengthen our faith.

Our mission, "Working together in the light of the Lord," is expressed through our commitment to prayer and liturgy, which forms the foundation of our educational experience. As Marcus Stock (2012) states, “The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers is integral to the learning and teaching process, helping us to reflect, experience the presence of God, and grow in spiritual maturity” (*Christ at the Centre*, Catholic Truth Society, 23).

We emphasise the importance of liturgical symbols and rituals in deepening students' understanding of the Church’s traditions. The use of sacred symbols—such as the cross, candles, holy water, and altar—will be incorporated into our prayer and liturgy practices. In addition, liturgical music will be selected in accordance with the customs of the Catholic Church to ensure an authentic liturgical experience.

2. Statement of requirement

In accordance with the law, all maintained Catholic schools are required to provide an act of daily prayer and liturgy for all pupils, including those in the sixth form, in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. This obligation is established under Section 70 of the 1988 Education Act and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Similarly, academies must comply with these regulations as set out in their funding agreements.

We acknowledge the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from prayer and liturgy up to the age of 16, as provided by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Our provision for prayer and liturgy will ensure that pupils experience the rich liturgical traditions of the Church, including prayers and liturgical music. Prayer and liturgy are separate from the formal curriculum but are essential to the Catholic identity and spiritual life of our school.

3. Roles and Responsibility

(a) Governance

The governors, as guardians of the Catholic school's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

(b) Co - Headteachers

As the spiritual leaders of the school, the Co -Headteachers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy are central to school life and are in line with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- Collaborating with other members of staff who are responsible for spiritual life.
- Ensuring staff receive adequate training in leading prayer and liturgy.
- Providing appropriate resources to support prayer and liturgical activities.
- Highlighting liturgical symbols and sacraments to help students understand Catholic traditions better.

(c) Prayer and Liturgy Leaders

- Prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and align with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- There is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year, identifying liturgical seasons, key celebrations, and opportunities for Sacramental celebrations.

- There is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.
- Pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, facilitating progressive participation in the liturgical experience.
- Resources to support planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils, including liturgical symbols and music that reflect Church teachings.
- Induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required.
- Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities, including formation on the meaning and use of liturgical symbols and rituals.
- Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy are regularly conducted and incorporated into future planning, focusing on quality liturgical experiences.
- Monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school.
- Collaboration with local clergy and parishes, and liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service, to ensure liturgical practices follow best practice.

4. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Prayer and Liturgy takes place throughout the school on a daily basis in whole school, year groups or classroom context:

- Monday – Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy led by members of SLT
- Tuesday - Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy led by class teachers
- Wednesday - Key Stage Worship through Hymns led by Headteachers
- Thursday - Class based Prayer and Liturgy led by class teachers / pupils
- Friday – Key Stage Prayer and Liturgy focused on celebration and virtues led by members of SLT
- House Captains plan, prepare and lead Prayer and Liturgy every half term.
- Beginning and end of term Prayer and Liturgy led by Headteacher.
- Faith Ambassadors plan, prepare and lead Prayer and Liturgy every half term
- Class led Prayer and Liturgy 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 reflection
- At the end of Advent term, The School Choir, School Council, Faith Ambassadors and Head Boy & Girl take part in the Carol Concert incorporating prayer
- 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 Prayer and Liturgy.

- Outside speakers are invited into school to lead Prayer and Liturgy – CAFOD, Wintershall, Council of Faiths.

Mass

We believe that the celebration of Holy Mass should draw together all the elements of prayer and 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 KSI Liturgy for the children at the beginning of the School Year.
- 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.
- Tuesday 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 the Sacrament of Reconciliation are offered for staff and pupils during Advent and Lent term

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 1 and EYFS classes
- Prayer trees in each Key Stage outdoor areas
- Weekly prayer session before school / lunchtimes led by prayer monitors.
- Rosary group before school once a week
- During Prayer and Liturgy
- As part of RE lessons
- Meditation
- Chaplaincy sessions

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is visible through religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

6. Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Staff development of prayer life and spirituality

- Member of the RE team leads a reflection at the start of all staff meetings
- 1st Friday of every month, Chaplain leads a staff reflection in the prayer room before the start of the school day.
- Staff meetings during the year led by Chaplain, RE lead and Parish Priest with a focus on developing staff spirituality

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

We also aim to support parents' spiritual life by:

- Sharing prayers for Holy Days and other significant events via Parentmail and Instagram.
- Inviting parents to attend Masses and Prayer and Liturgy led by their child's class.
- Providing newsletters to keep parents informed about the RE curriculum and focus topics.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly as part of the school's policy review cycle, ensuring that it remains aligned with the needs of the school and the guidance of the Catholic Church.