

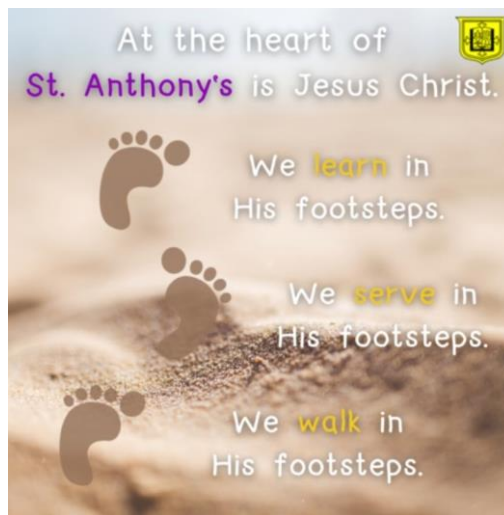
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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Prayer and Liturgy Statement of Intent

Our aim at St. Anthony's is to guide children through their religious journey, ensuring our ethos supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within the entire school community. We guide the children to strive towards living their lives following the Gospel Values, the teachings of Jesus Christ, using His life as an example, and the Catholic Church. This is done through modelling these actions daily and supporting those who teach and work with the children with this endeavour. Our strong community of parents, carers and the parish community work together to provide a safe, welcoming Christian atmosphere where all children can succeed by learning in His footsteps, serving in His footsteps and walking in His footsteps.

Through liturgy and worship we aim to:

- Provide each child with an opportunity to develop their own personal relationship with God, through acts of prayer, reflection and celebration.
- Create an ethos where children feel loved, safe and a part of a community.
- Enable and encourage each child's spiritual development.
- Aid children in knowing and being able to recite traditional prayers of the Catholic Church.
- Teach children how to take part in and experience acts of Worship.
- Provide children with examples of how to act, live and serve.
- Provide experiences of good liturgy.

- Provide children with welcoming, safe areas where they may carry out their own acts of worship.
- Encourage a social and individual moral consciousness.

What is Prayer and Liturgy?

'Prayer is the raising of one's heart and mind to God or the requesting of good things from God.'

(CCC 2259)

There are 3 main types of Prayer and Liturgy: -Liturgical Prayer, Liturgy and Prayer. Liturgical prayer is those experiences of collective prayer that have a liturgical shape, that is: 1.) Gather, 2.) Word, 3.) Response, 4.) Mission/ Go Forth. These have the freedom for innovation within this format but in planning these acts of collective worship the Word of God, that is a reading from Scripture, **must** always be proclaimed. Liturgy is those rites of the Church for which there are prescribed forms and texts. These include the Mass, Benediction and orders of service for the Sacraments. Prayer is where we speak personally to God, it is where the greatest innovation may take place. This may be personal prayer, spontaneous prayer or other prayer traditions and expressions of popular society, for example: The Angelus, Stations of the Cross and the Rosary. St. Teresa of Avila said of prayer: "Prayer is a close sharing between friends. In prayer, we listen, we speak, we gaze."

Mass

At St. Anthony's we have a Mass rota ensuring each child experiences the Liturgy every three weeks. The children are actively involved in the liturgy through readings, singing and learning how to alter serve under Father Peter's guidance. We also ensure that we attend Mass for each Holy Day of Obligation. We invite parents, carers and other members of their family to attend Mass with us weekly. To encourage more families to attend Sunday Mass at St. Anthony's, we have ensured there is a greater presence of members of staff at Church.

Worship and Prayers

Each Monday we join together as a school community to share in the Sunday Gospel, responses and prayers. This is a time where our community is seen and all ages share their responses and thoughts to the Sunday Gospel. During this time we also learn and recite new prayers together and learn and sing new hymns, praising God in doing so.

Each class also holds their own class worships three times a week through Liturgical Prayer. Each year group has expectations to allow each child to be a part of the Liturgical Prayer, with UKS2 planning and leading their own Liturgical Prayer. Responses to these Liturgical Prayers, can be found in a book in each classroom where each child's responses and reflections are recorded in a variety of ways. It is encouraged that each Liturgical Prayer is evaluated, to allow a discussion of what went well and how God could be honoured and celebrated more next time. Each term, each class invites the parents, carers and families into school to join them in a Liturgical Prayer led by a group of children from the class. This allows the religious community to strengthen and brings families together for the Word of God and Prayer.

The New Religious Education Directory, 'To know You more clearly', will provide children with the opportunities to develop their knowledge of Worship and Prayer. They will be able to delve deeper into the meaning of parts of the Mass and recite traditional prayers as well as create their own personal prayers.

Each class recites the same prayers each day, we have school morning, lunch and end of the day prayers. This allows children to learn the prayers by heart and maintains consistency throughout the school, enhancing the sense of community.

Advent/Lent

The seasons of Advent and Lent are times of preparation, preparation for the birth of Christ at Christmas and the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. We ensure that we put focus onto these seasons across the school to ensure children realise the importance of these seasons. We ensure that during each of these seasons we raise money for a particular charity, ensuring that the children are part of this act and can see the difference they have made. Each Advent and Lent, we remember and celebrate through reflections, EYFS and Year 1/2 guide us in reflection during Advent and Year 3/4 guide us in reflection during Lent.

Professional Development/INSET/Training

At St. Anthony's we recognise that as a staff we can always develop and strengthen our own religious understanding and personal faith. Each year we begin the year with an INSET/ part of an INSET dedicated to Religious Development. Throughout the year we also ensure that there are Staff Meetings and TA training dedicated to developing our own understanding of Prayer and Liturgy.

Resources

At St. Anthony's we use a range of resources to support Prayer and Liturgy throughout the school. We provide guidance and suggested resources for teachers and children to follow, however we believe in creating Liturgical Prayers that are relevant and resonate with the children, therefore we allow freedom with the choice of resources. Our main resources are from the Diocese, CAFOD and TenTen.

Each class is provided with Liturgical cloths which are changed to correspond to the Liturgical year colours. They also have access to a range of artefacts such as: candles, crucifix, art work and other Catholic artefacts.

Inclusion

At St. Anthony's we welcome children of other faiths, we ensure we take care to respect their faiths and cultures. Parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worships carried out in school, however this is not something we encourage as they have selected a denominational faith school and are aware of what this entails. We also think it is important that the similarities and differences between faiths are discussed and celebrated.