Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Current Leader: Mrs. Blackburn

Review Schedule: Annually

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School

This prayer and liturgy policy has been approved and adopted by the governing body on 26th November 2025 and will be reviewed in November 2026.

Signed by the Chair of Governors: *M Thompson*

Signed by the Headteacher: *J Griffin*

St. Paul and St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School Mission Statement

Love, Learn, Believe, Achieve

in the spirit of Jesus

At St. Paul and St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School we celebrate the individual differences and gifts that God has blessed each and every one of us with.

"The mission of schools … is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful."

"An inclusive education finds a place for all."

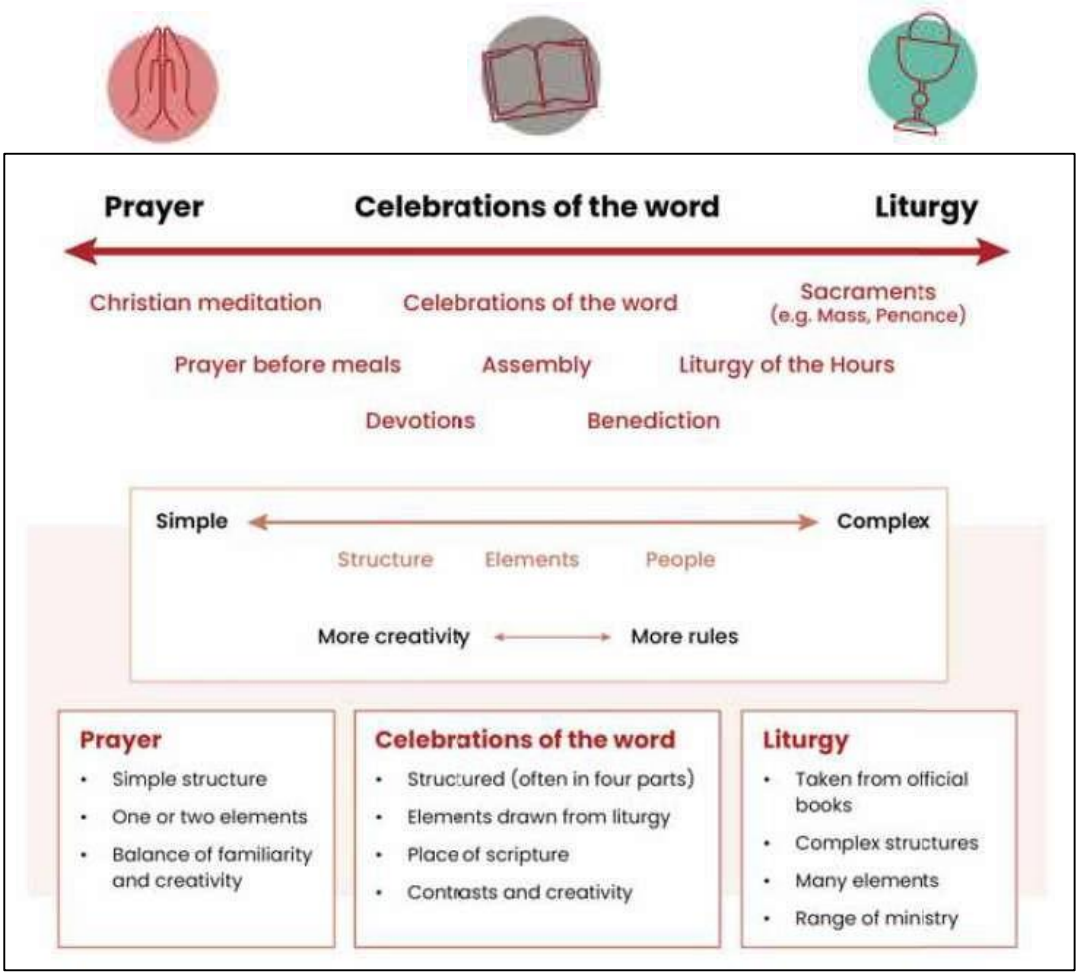
"Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life." *(Pope Francis)*

We believe each new day brings the opportunity to express our love for God and one another. We provide a supportive, yet challenging, learning environment where each individual is able to develop their abilities and gifts. Our school is a place where

children and adults can express their belief in God; develop belief in themselves and others. We believe everyone in our school community can achieve, whatever their ability. Each achievement is as unique as each individual and all are celebrated. We aspire to equip all in our school community to proclaim the Good News and "live life to the full".

Introduction: Understanding Prayer and Liturgy (from the Prayer and Liturgy Directory)

In any school there will be a range of prayer and liturgy: classroom prayer, meditation, assemblies, devotions, special services for times in the school year and celebrations of Mass. Each form of prayer and liturgy will have its own character dependent on the circumstances, size and age of the group, the place of celebration and its content.



1. The context of this prayer and liturgy policy

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Marcus Stock (2012), Christ at the Centre, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

2. Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; 70 Instrument of Government, clause 2).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth-form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)). The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St. Paul & St Timothy's Catholic Infant School

Prayer and liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Prayer and liturgy takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds

3. 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) **Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures 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
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy
- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

(c) **Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy 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 an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- 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, and in a manner, which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- 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
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

4. **Overview of prayer and liturgy provision**

Prayer and liturgy are central to the faith life of our school and provide regular opportunities for children to develop their relationship with God, both individually and as part of the school community.

We aim to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To enrich religious experience
- To develop, explore and deepen our own faith and beliefs
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God

Through our Prayer and Liturgy, children will have opportunities to

- Celebrate, pray and sing together
- Know that Jesus loves them and will walk with them always
- Grow in Liturgical understanding and development
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder in God's creation
- Celebrate the diversity and talent of all members of our community

In order to do this, celebrations will

- Be kept small and wherever possible personalised to those involved
- Be short and appropriately paced for the age and stage of our young children
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy

At St Paul and St Timothy's Infant School, Prayer and Liturgy take place regularly throughout the week, providing worship that reflects the Church's liturgical year and supports the spiritual growth of all pupils.

- Daily prayers in class at the beginning and end of the school day and before and after lunch
- Celebration of the word in the classroom, at times determined by the class teacher within their own timetable. These sessions may include collective prayer, reflection on Scripture, or class-based liturgical celebrations appropriate to the children's age and understanding.
  Year Group celebration of the Word led by member of staff from year group team. This time allows children to come together in shared worship and to deepen their sense of belonging to the wider school community.
- Prayer and Liturgy in Church led by Deacon Andy (1 class per week)
- Whole School Celebration of the Word led by DHT or HT (part of Praise assembly)

Liturgical Celebrations Across the Year:

Throughout the liturgical year, the school community will celebrate special occasions in line with the Church's calendar, including:

- **Welcome Service for new Reception children**
- **A Harvest/Thanksgiving Celebration in October.**
- **Remembrance Service**
- **Advent/ Christmas**
- **The distribution of Ashes during Lent provides an opportunity for reflection and preparation for Easter.**
- **Lenten Stay and Pray**
- **Grandparents Celebration of the Word**
- **Class Masses (to begin in 2027)**
- **Saints Feast days including St Paul, St Timothy, St Patrick, St George etc.**

1. 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 reflected in 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Planning, content and celebration

Prayer and Liturgy is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, RE Curriculum, feast days and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Days.

Parish community and parents/carers are invited to participate in some celebrations

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion

An overview of prayer and liturgy across the week/term.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, involving 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.

6. The Learning Environment

Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout the premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of our learning environment.

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season

and will reference RE topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

7. Review

The policy will be reviewed by the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and governors every two years as part of the regular cycle of policy review.

Appendix 1

1. Prayer & Liturgy Monitoring Guidance

Date and Time: Observer:

Present: Whole school / Key Stage / Class: Leader:

Theme of Act of Worship:

Setting the Atmosphere and Preparing for Worship:

- Staff and pupils confidently plan and lead well-constructed prayer and liturgy. They are adept at helping pupils to faithfully plan and prepare.
- Pupils work collaboratively with others, such as teachers, other pupils and chaplains to prepare creative and well-constructed experiences of prayer and liturgy. Pupils have a developed capacity for evaluating the quality of the prayer and liturgy they have used their evaluation to prepare, improve and plan.
- Families are included in the prayer life of the school through prayer and liturgy.
- The parish helps pupils to participate more fully in the liturgy.
- Imaginative and creative use of the spaces available to: provide prayer spaces within classrooms and elsewhere that are owned by the pupils to ensure that it has access to everything necessary for the worthy celebration of Mass, or worship.
- The prayer space is used appropriately, well-cared for and conducive to prayer.

- Is there a plan available with content to meet the needs of all present?
- Is there an appropriate focus?
- Are the resources used suitable?
- Are ICT / Music etc. prepared and ready?
- Do all the readers/leaders have all they need? Have support staff been briefed?
- Have invitations been sent to members of the community (if appropriate)?
- Is the accommodation suitable and ready?
- Focus table, lighting, can children see the focus, bible etc…speak to staff, place CW sign on door

Gathering:

- How do participants gather – is there a sense or order and respect?
- Is there a procession/movement to another area?
- How is a prayerful atmosphere created?
- Is there an invitation to participate?
- Does everyone feel welcome?
- Is the purpose of the act of worship clear and the focus explained?
- Use a space to sit all children – gathering around one table standing at first etc or maybe move to a more suitable space in school.
- If not create a sacred space on each table – use small battery lights, holding cross to share – make the space ready for prayer – music can signify the change from curriculum to prayer
- Welcome the children/adults. Sing Gather Together… Welcome everybody. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
- Share the contents, cloth, cross, holding cross and bible – say explain what each of them is
- Light the Candle and say … we light this candle to show that God brought light into the world. Or Jesus is the Light of the World.

Responding:

- The response is creative, it has been nurtured and practised so that all are fully immersed in the prayer and liturgy response to Scripture.
- A wide range of high-quality music and other art forms are, when appropriate, integrated into prayer and liturgy in a way that significantly enhances these experiences for participants and reflects the riches of the Church.
- Pupils are deeply engaged and are led to full, active and conscious participation. Pupils demonstrate this by, for example, the quality of prayerful silence, their attentiveness and response to prayer and liturgy, and their engagement in communal singing
- Pupils pray in a wide variety of ways as part of the Catholic tradition. For example, the use of scripture, symbol, silence, meditation, reflection and liturgical music.
- The shape and meaning of the Church's liturgical year is shared and understood and it is expressed in the prayer life of the school.

- Is there maximum participation?
- Is time given for individual silent reflection?
- Do children pray/respond wholeheartedly?
- Are adults good role models?
- Did all adults present participate?
- Are participants invited to respond in an appropriate manner? (in a variety of ways) Silence time with God, let's pray together, share our own prayer
- God's closeness to us – looks after us, cares for us, stars in the sky, show how many in our family love us and how much God loves us.
- All in God's family

Going Forth: (Mission)

- Does Worship conclude appropriately?
- Do participants leave Collective Worship in a suitable, orderly manner?
- How are they enabled to take the message away with them? For example,…Stars for each – hold and share with families. Look at the stars and remember everyone who loves you. Remember God loves you. We are part of God's family
- Are there links to Catholic Social Teaching?

Evaluation/ Pupil Voice & Ideas for questions

- Pupils demonstrate confidence in articulating the ways in which prayer and liturgy influence and are influenced by both the curriculum and the wider life of the school. They make connections with ease and speak about them in their own language.

- Pupils readily reflect on their experience of prayer and liturgy with confidence and in detail. They can articulate clearly the ways in which these experiences have shaped how they think about themselves and the world and how this has inspired them to action.

- Was it a positive, enriching religious experience for all present?
- Has this worship enhanced the spiritual and / or moral development of those present?
- Was the time and content appropriate for the age, ability and background of the children?
- Did all parts of worship help to develop the Liturgical formation of participants?
- Was it well-organised, led and presented?
- Was there a sense of community, common ethos and shared values?
- Was I as the observer able to pray?

Strengths to Celebrate and action to be taken:

Areas to Develop and action to be taken: (see overall evaluation)

APPENDIX 2

The Role of the Coordinator for Prayer and Liturgy

- Formulating a written policy for prayer and liturgy
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for prayer and liturgy included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that prayer and liturgy takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for prayer times
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to prayer and liturgy including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in prayer and liturgy

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of prayer and liturgy
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards prayer and liturgy
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding prayer and liturgy
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for prayer and liturgy
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for prayer and liturgy including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficient

APPENDIX 3
Annual Prayer and Liturgy Plan

Love, Learn, Believe Achieve- in the spirit of Jesus



Class Prayer and Liturgy Overview

	Daily prayers	Common prayers	Other forms of prayer	Celebration of the Word	Mass responses
EYFS	Morning Grace before meals End of day	Amen Sign of the cross Glory Be	Each week: 1 x Guided individual prayer ✞ Spontaneous prayer ✞ Litany ✞ Prayers of intercession ✞ Reflection on religious music / art Friday: whole school sing and praise	Each week: 1x Year Group 1x Whole School 1 x teacher-led in class (with children learning to participate as outlined in the policy)	The Lord be with you. *R: And with your spirit.* Greet the Gospel with *"Alleluia"*
Key Stage 1	Morning Grace before meals End of day	All the above, plus… Our Father Hail Mary Gloria	Each week: 1 x Guided individual prayer ✞ Spontaneous prayer ✞ Litany ✞ Prayers of intercession ✞ Reflection on religious music / art ✞ Reflection on Common Prayers ✞ The Examen Friday: whole school sing and praise	Each week: 1x Year Group 1x Whole School 1 x teacher-led in class (with children learning to participate as outlined in the policy)	All the above, plus… <u>Introductory Rites</u> Lord, have mercy. *R: Lord, have mercy.* Christ, have mercy. *R: Christ, have mercy.* Lord, have mercy. *R: Lord, have mercy.* <u>Sign of Peace</u> *Peace be with you*

Whole School Prayer and Liturgy Overview

N.B. Where Holy Days fall on a Sunday, a Celebration of the Word using the scriptures will be held for the whole school.

	Other prayer opportunities	Services / Celebrations	Holy Day celebration of the Word	School Masses
September	Mother Teresa Feast Day	New Reception Welcome Celebration		
October	Feast of St Francis of Assisi Rosary	Harvest		International Parish Mass (St Paul's Church)
November	Reflections on saints of the UK	All Saints Day Remembrance Day	Advent Stay and Pray	
December		Reception Carol Service Year 1 Nativity Year 2 Nativity	Advent Stay and Pray	
January	Stations of the Cross	Feast of St Paul (Jan 25th) Feast of St Timothy (Jan 26th)	Epiphany Baptism of Jesus	Mass of Thanksgiving
February		Ash Wednesday Service	Candlemas	
March		Mother's Day St. Patrick's Celebration Easter Passion Service	Lenten Stay and Pray Annunciation	
April			Grandparents Celebration of the Word	
May	Rosary	Month of Mary	Ascension	
June		Father's Day	Pentecost	

			Holy Trinity Body & Blood of the Lord	
July		EYFS Moving on Assembly Year 1 Moving on Assembly Year 2 Leavers Celebration		

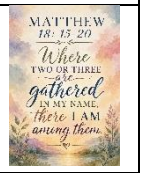
St Paul & St Timothy's Catholic Infant School Annual Celebration of the Word Plan – Liturgical Year

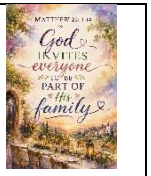
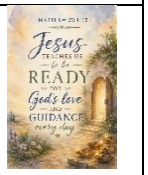
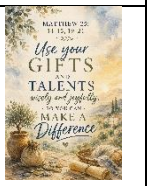
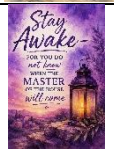
Term / Liturgical Season	Celebration of the Word Theme	Scripture	Simple Message for Children	Catholic / School Link
AUTUMN 1	**Welcome – We Are God's Family**	Mark 10:14	Jesus welcomes and loves every one of us.	New school year / Belonging
Week 1	**Our Mission – LOVE**	John 13:34	Jesus asks us to love one another.	**Love**
Week 2	**Our Mission – LEARN**	Luke 2:46–47	God has given us gifts to help us learn and grow.	**Learn**
Week 3	**Our Mission – BELIEVE**	Mark 10:27	We believe in God and trust that He is with us.	**Believe**
Week 4	**Our Mission – ACHIEVE**	Matthew 5:14–16	We use our gifts and try our best to shine.	**Achieve**
Week 5	**Harvest – Thank You, God**	Psalm 104:14	We thank God for what we have and share with others.	Harvest / CAFOD / Foodbank
Week 6	**Mary and the Rosary**	Luke 1:28–31	Mary said yes to God and helps us follow Jesus.	Month of the Holy Rosary
Week 7	**Let your Light Shine**	Matthew 5:14-16	Our kindness can bring light and happiness to others	**Kindness**
AUTUMN 2 Week 1	**All Saints – Called to Be Saints**	Matthew 5:1–12	The saints show us how to live God's way.	All Saints
Week 2	**Remembrance – Peacemakers**	Matthew 5:9	Jesus wants us to bring peace to others.	Remembrance / Peace
Week 3	**Christ the King**	Luke 23:42–43	Jesus is our King and teaches us to love and serve.	Christ the King
Week 4	**Advent – Hope**	Isaiah 9:2	We wait with hope for Jesus.	Advent Week 1
Week 5	**Advent – Peace**	Luke 1:26–38	Mary trusted God as she waited for Jesus.	Advent Week 2
Week 6	**Advent – Joy**	Luke 2:8–14	Jesus brings joy to our world.	Advent Week 3
Week 7	**Advent – Love**	Luke 1:39–45	We prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus with love.	Advent Week 4
Christmas	**Jesus Is Born**	Luke 2:1–20	Jesus is God's wonderful gift of love to us.	Christmas
	Epiphany – Following Jesus	Matthew 2:1–12	Like the Wise Men, we follow Jesus.	Epiphany

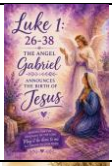
Term / Liturgical Season	Celebration of the Word Theme	Scripture	Simple Message for Children	Catholic / School Link
SPRING 1 wk1				
Week 2	**The Baptism of Jesus – Belonging**	Mark 1:9–11	Through Baptism, we belong to God's family.	Baptism of the Lord
Week 3	**Jesus Calls His Friends**	Mark 1:16–20	Jesus calls us to follow Him.	Discipleship
Week 4	**The Good Samaritan – Be Kind**	Luke 10:30–37	Everyone is our neighbour.	CST / Human Dignity
Week 5	**Love One Another**	1 Corinthians 13:4–7	Love is patient and kind.	Relationships / Mission
Week 6	**Using Our Gifts**	Matthew 5:14–16	God has given everyone special gifts to share.	Dignity / **Achieve**
Week 7 – LENT	**Ash Wednesday – Beginning Lent**	Mark 1:15	Lent is a special time to grow closer to Jesus.	Ash Wednesday
Spring 2 Wk1	**Prayer**	Matthew 6:6	During Lent we make more time to talk and listen to God.	Lent
Week 2	**Giving – Helping Others**	Matthew 25:35–40	When we help others, we show our love for Jesus.	CAFOD / Solidarity
Week 3	**Our Global Family**	Mark 12:30–31	Jesus asks us to love our neighbours near and far.	CAFOD Big Lent Walk / LiveSimply
Week 4	**Forgiveness**	Luke 15:11–24	God loves us and always welcomes us back.	Reconciliation
Week 5	**Palm Sunday – Welcome Jesus**	Matthew 21:1–11	We welcome Jesus as our King.	Palm Sunday
Week 6	**The Last Supper**	Luke 22:14–20	Jesus showed His friends how much He loved them.	Holy Thursday
Week 7	**The Cross – Jesus Loves Us**	John 19:25–30	Jesus showed us His great love.	Good Friday
SUMMER 1 – Week1	**Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen**	John 20:1–18	Jesus is alive. Alleluia!	Easter
Week 2	**The Road to Emmaus**	Luke 24:13–35	Jesus walks beside us even when we cannot see Him.	Easter Season
Week 3	**Jesus the Good Shepherd**	John 10:11–14	Jesus knows us, loves us and cares for us.	Good Shepherd Sunday
Week 4	**Mary – Our Mother**	John 19:26–27	Mary helps us to follow Jesus.	Month of Mary
Week 5	**Crowning Mary**	Luke 1:46–49	We thank God for Mary's faith and love.	Marian devotion
Week 6	**Go and Share the Good News**	Matthew 28:16–20	Jesus asks us to share His love with everyone.	Ascension
SUMMER Week1	**Pentecost – Come, Holy Spirit**	Acts 2:1–4	The Holy Spirit gives us courage to follow Jesus.	Pentecost
Week 2	**The Holy Trinity**	Matthew 28:19	We believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	Trinity Sunday

Term / Liturgical Season	Celebration of the Word Theme	Scripture	Simple Message for Children	Catholic / School Link
Week 3	**Corpus Christi – Jesus, Bread of Life**	John 6:35	Jesus gives Himself to us.	Corpus Christi
Week 4	**Care for God's Creation**	Genesis 1:31	God's world is wonderful and we must care for it.	Laudato Si' / LiveSimply
Week 5	**St Peter and St Paul**	Matthew 16:13–19	Peter and Paul shared the Good News about Jesus.	Feast of St Peter & St Paul
Week 6	**Thank You, God**	Psalm 136:1	We thank God for our friends, learning and school year.	End-of-year thanksgiving
Week 7	**Go Forth and Shine**	Matthew 5:14–16	Take the love of Jesus with you wherever you go.	Year 2 Leavers / Transition

Sunday Gospel Scripture Provision for Celebrations of the Word - 2026/27

Michaelmas Term								
Date of Sunday Gospel	**Scripture Reference**	**Summary**	**Possible Theme**	**Additional Scripture**	**Liturgical Season**	**Possible link with CST (CAFOD)**	**Possible Items/Images for Focus Table**	**Notes**
30.8.26	**Matthew 16: 21-27**	**Jesus says, "If you want to follow me, you need to think of others before yourself."**	Selflessness Following God's plan	**Philippians 2:4** "And Look for one another's, not just your own."	Year A 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Human Dignity**	Footprints Small sandals	
6.9.26	**Matthew 18: 15-20**	**Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.**	Praying as a Community	**Acts 1:14** *"They gathered frequently to pray as a group."*	Year A 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Solidarity**,	Peg dolls	
13.9.26	**Matthew 18: 21-35**	**Jesus wants us to forgive others again and again, just as God always forgives us.**	Forgiveness	**Colossians 3:13** *"Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another."*	Year A 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Solidarity**,	Picture of children hugging	
20.9.26	**Matthew 20: 1-16**	**God loves everyone and is generous to all, even when we think things should be different.**	Generosity	**Isaiah 55:8-9** *"For my thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours*	Year A 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Option for the Poor**	Purse and coins	
27.9.26	**Matthew 21: 28-32**	**Be true to your word. Do what you say you will do.**	Faith in Action	**James 1:22** *"Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word, instead put it into practice."*	Year A 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Cafod Live Simply Logo	
4.10.26	**Matthew 21: 33-43**	**Something that seems unimportant can become very special and important in God's plan.**	Seeing potential in all things	**Psalm 118:22-23** *"The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all. This was done by the Lord; what a wonderful sight it is!"*	Year A 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Stewardship**	Acorns	

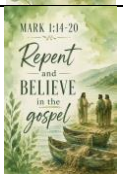
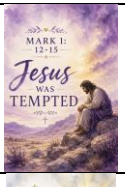
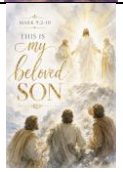
11.10.26	**Matthew 22: 1-14**	**God invites everyone to be part of His family**	God's kingdom is for everyone	**Isaiah 25:6** *"Here on Mount Zion the Lord Almighty will prepare for all nations a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine."*	Year A 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Plate and artificial food	
18.10.26	**Matthew 22: 15-21**	**Jesus teaches us to give to God what belongs to God and to be honest and respectful in our responsibilities.**	Respect civil responsibility and remain faithful to God	**Romans 13:7** *"Pay, then, what you owe them; pay them your personal and property taxes, and show respect and honour for them all."*	Year A 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Plastic coins	
25.10.26	**Matthew 22: 34-40**	**You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself**	Wholehearted devotion to God	**Deuteronomy 6:5** *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*	Year A 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Solidarity**	Paper Hearts	
1.11.26	**Matthew 5: 1-12a**	**Blessed are the poor in spirit**	Living according to God's will.	**Micah 6:8** *"What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God."*	All Saints Solemnity	**Option for the Poor**	Small mirror (look at ourselves)	
8.11.26	**Matthew 25: 1-13**	**Jesus teaches us to be ready for God's love and guidance every day**	Get ready Be prepared	**Luke 12:35-36** *"Be ready for whatever comes, dressed for action and with your lamps lit, like servants waiting for their master to come home from a wedding feast..."*	Year A 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Image of Oil Lamp	
15.11.26	**Matthew 25: 14-15, 19-21**	**Use your gifts and talents wisely and joyfully, so you can make a difference**	Use your gifts to be of service	**1 Peter 4:10** *"Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God."*	Year A 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Stewardship**	Gift bags, wrapped box	
22.11.26	**Matthew 25: 31-46**	**True discipleship is shown through concrete acts of love and mercy,**	Looking after those in need	**Proverbs 19:17** *"When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back."*	Year A Christ the King Solemnity	**Option for the Poor**	Pair of paper hands	
29.11.26	**Mark 13:33-37**	**Stay Awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come**	Hope and Expectation	**Romans 13:11** *"You must do this, because you know that the time has come for you to wake up from your sleep. For salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."*	Year B 1st Sunday of Advent	**Stewardship**	Alarm clock	

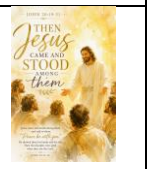
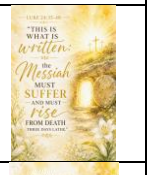
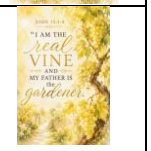
6.12.26	**Mark 1:1-8**	**Jesus' cousin John the Baptist tells us to get ready for the Lord**	Be ready to receive the Lord.	**Isaiah 40:3** *"A voice cries out, 'Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God!'"*	Year B 2nd Sunday of Advent	**Participation**	Sand and peg doll	
13.12.26	**John 1: 6-8, 19-28**	**God sent John as his messenger**	Joy and Anticipation	**John 3:30** *"He must become more important while I become less important."*	Year B 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday	**Participation**	A lantern	
20.12.26	**Luke 1: 26-38**	**The angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus**	Saying Yes to God	**Luke 1:45** *"How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"*	Year B 4th Sunday of Advent	**Participation**	Our Lady and Angel Peg Doll	
27.12.26	**Luke 2: 39-40**	**The child grew, filled with wisdom**	Jesus grew in wisdom	**Luke 2:52** *"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."*	Feast of The Holy Family	**Human Dignity**	Nativity Set	

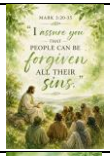
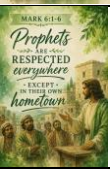
Catholic Social Teaching Principle (CAFOD version)	Pupil-Friendly Meaning
Human Dignity	Everyone is special because they are made by God.
Common Good	We should think about what helps everyone.
Participation	Everyone should have a chance to take part and make a difference.
Stewardship	We care for God's world.
Option for the Poor	We put people in greatest need first.
Solidarity	We are one family and help each other.
Subsidiarity	People closest to a problem should help make decisions.

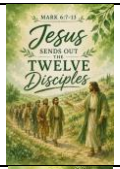
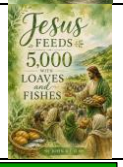
Candlemass Term

3.1.27	**John 1: 1-5, 9-14**	**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us**	Jesus shows us exactly what God is like.	**Colossians 1:15-20** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created...*	2nd Sunday of Christmas	**Human Dignity**	Nativity Set	

10.1.27	**Mark 1: 7-11**	**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased**	Baptism of Jesus	**Matthew 3:13-17** *"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."*	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	**Human Dignity**	Dove	
17.1.27	**John 1: 35-42**	**They went to see where Jesus was staying, and they spent time with him there.**	Spending time with Jesus and learning from him.	**Luke 10:38-42** *"Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying."* (Luke 10:39)	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Picture of Jesus with people sitting at his feet listening to him	
24.1.27	**Mark 1: 14-20**	**Repent and believe in the gospel**	Say sorry and try to live like Jesus	**Acts 2:38-39** *"Peter said to them, 'Turn away from your sins, and each one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven.*	3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)	**Participation**	Fishing net and small fish	
31.1.27	**Mark 1: 21-28**	**He taught them as one who had authority**	Jesus teaches with God's power.	**Matthew 7:29** "He wasn't like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority."	4th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Human Dignity**	Picture of ears – listen to Jesus' message	
7.2.27	**Mark 1: 29-39**	**He healed many who were sick with various diseases**	Jesus helps people who are sick	**Matthew 9:35** *"Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people who had all kinds of disease and sickness."*	5th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Solidarity**	Plasters bandages	
14.2.27	**Mark 1: 12-15**	**Jesus was tempted**	Choosing between right and wrong	**1 Corinthians 10:13** *"God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm."*	1st Sunday of Lent	**Stewardship**	Small collection of pebbles	
21.2.27	Mark 9: 2-10	**This is my beloved Son**	The Transfiguration	**Hebrews 1:1-3** *"He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being."*	2nd Sunday of Lent	**Human Dignity**	Image of Jesus at the Transfiguration	
28.2.27	John 2: 13-25	**"Stop making my Father's house a marketplace."**	True Worship Respect for God's House	**Psalm 69:9** *"My devotion to your Temple burns in me like a fire; the insults which are hurled at you fall on me."*	3rd Sunday of Lent	**Stewardship**	Image of Jesus overturning tables	

7.3.27	John 3: 14-21	**For God so loved the world that he gave his only son**	God's Love for the World	**1 John 4:9-10** *"And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. This is what love is*	4th Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday	**Human Dignity**	Large Heart or Globe	
14.3.27	John 12: 23-33	**A grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it drops to the ground and dies**	Sacrifice Serving Through self-giving love	**Philippians 2:8-9** *"He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death, his death on the cross.*	5th Sunday of Lent	**Solidarity**	Grains of wheat	
21.3.27	John 12: 12-16	**"Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord!"**	Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Jesus the Humble King	**Zechariah 9:9** *"Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you!*	Palm Sunday	**Participation**	Palm Leaves	
28.3.27	Mark 16: 1-7	**Jesus has risen**	Christ is Risen	**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** *"I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was raised to life three days later."*	Easter Sunday	**Human Dignity**	Cross draped with a white cloth Sign: Alleluia He is Risen	
4.4.27	John 20: 19-31	**Then Jesus came and stood among them**	Jesus Appears to His Disciples	**2 Corinthians 5:7** *"For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight."*	2nd Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday	**Participation**	Holy Spirit Dove Sign: Peace be with you	
Trinity Term								
11.4.27	Luke 24: 35-48	**"This is what is written: The Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later."**	**Jesus Appears to his Disciples**	**John 20:19-23** The risen Jesus appears to the disciples, offers them peace, shows them his wounds, and sends them out in mission.	3rd Sunday of Easter	**Participation**	Cross with white cloth	
18.4.27	John 10: 11-18	**"I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep."**	**God protects, guides and cares for his people**	**Psalm 23:1-4** "The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.	4th Sunday of Easter	**Solidarity**	Sheep Shepherd's Crook	
25.4.27	John 15: 1-8	**"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener."**	**Growing in God's Love**	**Galatians 5:22-23** The "fruit of the Spirit" passage, which helps explain the kind of fruit Christians bear when they remain in Christ.	5th Sunday of Easter	**Participation**	Bunch of Grapes or Ivy Plant	

2.5.27	John 15: 9-17	**“My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you”**	**God is love**	**1 John 4:7-12** "Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God... God is love."	6th Sunday of Easter	**Solidarity**	Heart Shapes	
9.5.27	John 17: 11b - 19	**“May they may be one, just as you and I are one.”**	**Following Jesus Together**	**1 Peter 1:22-23** "Love one another earnestly with all your heart."	7th Sunday of Easter	**Solidarity**	Blank Jigsaw pieces	
16.5.27	John 20: 19-23	**“As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.”**	**The Gift of the Holy Spirit**	**Acts 1:8** "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me..."	Pentecost	**Participation**	Dove	
23.5.27	Matthew 28: 16-20	**“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.”**	**Go make disciples**	**Acts 1:8** "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."	Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity	**Participation**	Globe Footprints Sandals	
30.5.27	Mark 14: 12-16	**Jesus Eats the Passover Meal with his Disciples**	A Special Meal	**John 6:51** "I am the living bread that came down from heaven."	Solemnity of Corpus Christi	**Participation**	Bread and chalice	
6.6.27	Mark 3: 20-35	**I assure you that people can be forgiven all their sins.**	**Part of God's Family**	**1 John 3:1** "See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children."	10th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Solidarity**	Photos of families Peg dolls	
13.6.27	Mark 4: 26-34	**A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground.**	**God Helps Us Grow**	**1 Corinthians 3:6-9** "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.	11th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Seeds Small pots Soil	
20.6.27	Mark 4: 35- 41	**Jesus calms the storm**	**Safe with Jesus**	**Psalm 107:28-30** "Then in their trouble they called to the Lord, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the raging storm, and the waves became quiet.	12th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Solidarity**	Small boat Jesus peg doll	
27.6.27	Mark 5: 21-24, 35b-43	**“Little girl, I tell you to get up.”**	**Jesus Brings New Life**	**John 11:25-26** Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die."	13th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Human Dignity**	Jar for children’s prayers Plasters	
4.7.27	Mark 6: 1-6	**Prophets are respected everywhere except in their own hometown**	**Welcoming Jesus**	**Psalm 118:22** "The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all."	14th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Human Dignity**	Small model houses Stone	

11.7.27	Mark 6: 7-13	**Jesus sends out the Twelve Disciples**	**Sent by Jesus**	**Luke 10:1-9** Jesus sends out his followers in pairs to proclaim the Kingdom of God, bringing peace, healing, and the Good News.	15th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Participation**	Footsteps peg dolls	
18.7.27	Mark 6: 30-34	**"Let us go off by ourselves to someplace where we will be alone and you can rest for a while."**	**Jesus Cares for Us**	**Ezekiel 34:15**: "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will let them rest."	16th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Option for the Poor**	Small boat Blue cloth	
25.7.27	John 6: 1-15	**Jesus feeds 5,000 with loaves and fishes**	**Enough for Everyone**	**Ephesians 3:20** "To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of..."	17th Sunday of Ordinary Time	**Option for the Poor**	5 small bread loaves 2 fish or fish shapes	

♬ Ordinary Time Hymns ♬

Preparing for Whole School Worship	
Here I am to worship	Tim Hughes (19990
Waymaker	Sinach, featuring Kari Jobe and Cody Carnes (2015)
Jesus Be The Name	Elevation Worship, featuring Tiffany Hudson (2025)
10,000 Reasons	Matt Redman (2011)
Worthy Of It All	CeCe Winans, featuring Elevation Worship (2012)
Entrance/ Gathering Hymns	
All are welcome	Marty Haugen (1994)
Come and Fill This Temple	Arlene Friesen (1979)
Come now is the time to Worship	Brian Doerksen (1998)
Gather us in	Marty Haugen (1982)
In Christ Alone	Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend (2001)
Majesty	Jack William Hayford (1977)
Our God is Here	Chris Muglia (2001)
Seek ye First the kingdom of God	Karen Lafferty (1971)
Go Forth Hymns	
Be Thou my vision	Irish Tr. Mary Byrne- (1905)n Eleanor Hull (1912)
Christ be our light	Bernadette Farrell (1993)
Lord Reign in Me	Brenton Brown (1998)
Live in Us	Andy Severyn (2020)
Sing it in the valleys	Mike Anderson (19840
Shine Jesus Shine	Graham Kendrick (1988)
Though the Mountains	Daniel I Schutte (1979) New Dawn Music

Our God Reigns	Leonard E Smith (1974)
We shall stand	Graham Kendrick (1988) Make Way Music
We want to see Jesus Lifted High	Doug Horley (1993) Kingsway's Thankyou Music

Appendix 4: Progression of child involvement

Children participate in all areas of collective worship, participating fully in acts of worship. They are also involved in preparation and delivery of collective worship, regularly leading class collective worship, increasing involvement based on their age or stage of development:

Children's Involvement - Step 1

The teacher always models and leads.

Reflect quietly

Being still

Prepare

- Choose suitable artefacts – given from two choices
- Help to set up focus table and notice the liturgical colour

Gather

- Sing a gather Song
- Make the Sign of Cross
- Greet everyone

Listen

- Reverence for the **Word of God in Scripture** should be shown and expected from the earliest years.

Respond

- Be silent and be with God
- Pass an object around and take turns to share
- Say prayers together
- Say who/what they want to pray for
- Model and say traditional prayers e.g. Hail Mary, Our Father.

Evaluate

- What did we hear about today? What will it help us to do?

Children's Involvement - Step 2

The teacher always models and leads.

Prepare

- Choose suitable artefacts – given from three/four choices;
- Share the theme or message and ask children which hymn they could sing from two or three they know.
- Help to set up focus table and notice the liturgical colour

Gather

- Sing a gather Song
- Make the Sign of Cross
- Greet everyone

Listen

- Reverence for the **Word of God in Scripture** should be shown and expected from the earliest years.
- Read from Scripture.

Respond

- Be silent and be with God
- Pass an object around and take turns to share
- Say prayers together
- Say who/what they want to pray for
- Model and say traditional prayers
- Heartfelt responses

Evaluate

- What did we hear about today? What will it help us to do?
- Why did you choose the hymn/song/focus?

Reflect quietly

Being still

Participate in periods of reflection in response to a given stimulus

Think to myself about what I have seen or heard

Children's Involvement - Step 3

The teacher always models and leads and supports children in preparing and beginning to lead in parts.

Prepare
- Choose suitable artefacts – given from a wider choice
- Share the theme or message and ask children which hymn/song might be suitable
- Give a theme/message – set up a focus table, write prayers for Respond.
- Help choose the liturgical colour
- Help to support ICT equipment*

Gather
- Sing a gather Song
- Make the Sign of Cross
- Greet everyone

Listen
- Read from Scripture.
- Reverence for the **Word of God in Scripture** should be shown and expected from the earliest years.

Respond
- Pass an object around and take turns to share
- Say prayers together
- Say who/what they want to pray for
- Lead a hymn/song
- Heartfelt responses

Evaluate
- What did we hear about today? What will it help us to do?
- Why did you choose the hymn/song/focus?
- How did our focus help us today?

Reflect quietly

Being still

Participate in periods of reflection in response to a given stimulus

Think to myself about what I have seen or heard

Show understanding of the importance of stillness and quiet during times of reflection and prayer

Be still, be quiet, think to myself and say a prayer

Children's Involvement - Step 4

The teacher always models and leads and supports children in preparing and beginning to lead in parts.

Prepare
- Choose suitable artefacts – given from a wider choice
- Share the theme or message and ask children which hymn/song might be suitable
- Give a theme/message – set up a focus table, support children in finding suitable Scripture, write prayers for Respond.
- Help choose the liturgical colour
- Help to support ICT equipment*
- Support planning for larger liturgical gatherings

Gather
- Sing a gather Song
- Make the Sign of Cross
- Greet everyone

Listen
- Read from Scripture.
- Reverence for the **Word of God in Scripture** should be shown and expected from the earliest years.

Respond
- Pass an object around and take turns to share
- Say prayers together
- Say who/what they want to pray for
- Lead a hymn/song
- Heartfelt responses

Evaluate
- What did we hear about today? What will it help us to do?
- Why did you choose the hymn/song/focus?
- How did our focus help us today?

LEADERS OF ...
FAITH IN ACTION
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

- ✓ Reflect quietly- *Being still*
- ✓ Participate in periods of reflection in response to a given stimulus - *Think to myself about what I have seen or heard*
- ✓ Show understanding of the importance of stillness and quiet during times of reflection and prayer - *Be still, be quiet, think to myself and say a prayer*
- ✓ Demonstrate an appreciation of the elements needed for reflection and contemplation or prayer (places, times, foci, stimuli) - *What do we need to do to reflect, think and pray? What helps us reflect, think and pray?*