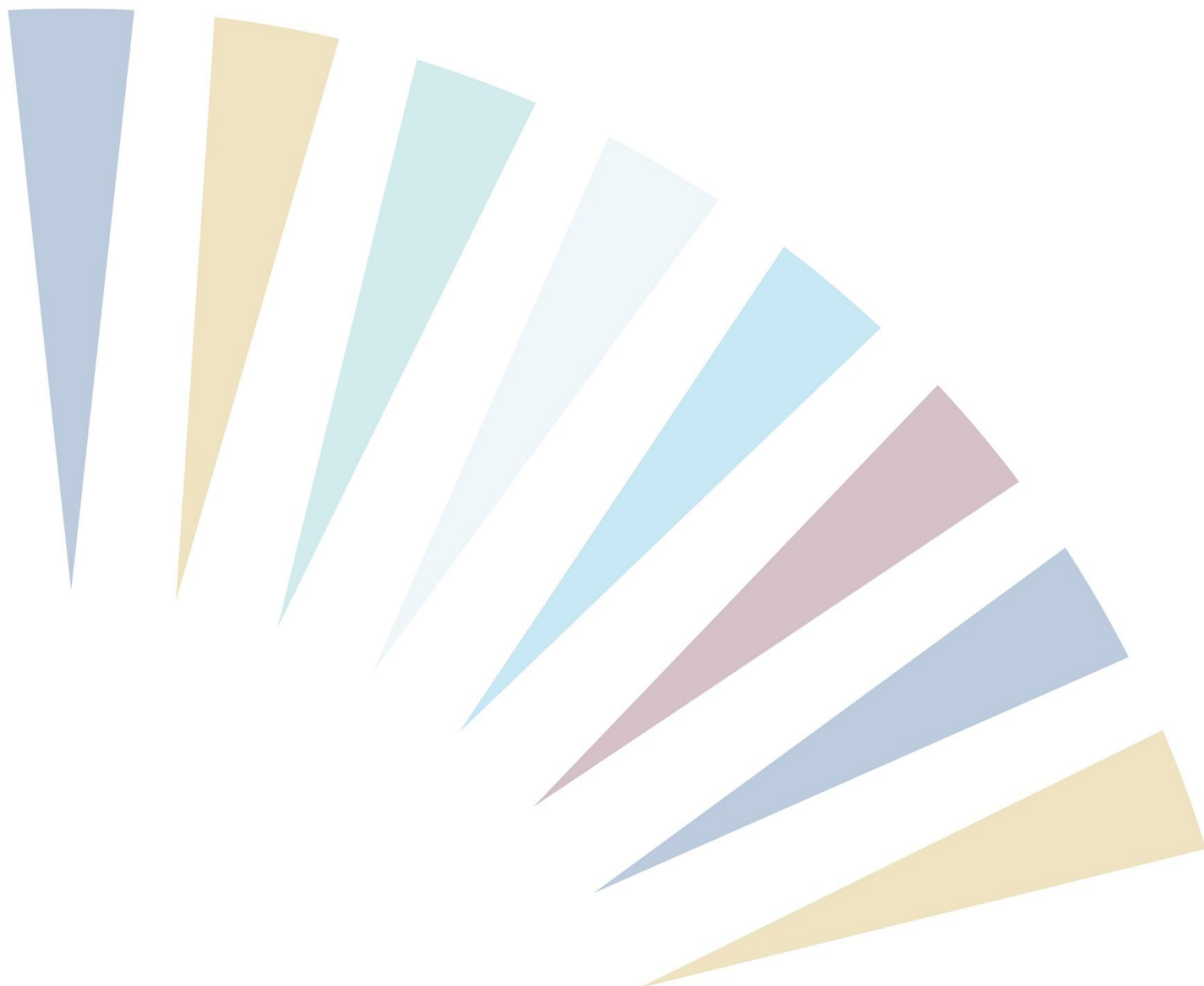


We are His body, living and learning as one.

PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY



Saint Paul's Catholic High School
All Saints Catholic College
St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Ss John Fisher & Thomas More Catholic Primary School



Document Record	
Title	Policy for Prayer and Liturgy
Date	September 2025
Supersedes	November 2024
Purpose	Prayer and Liturgy in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. Prayer and Liturgy gives glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in words and actions, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This policy sets out the school's provision for prayer and liturgy, which fulfils pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, which pupils in the school will be familiar.
Author	CCCAT Chaplain - Miss Hazlewood Headteacher and leader of Prayer and Liturgy – Mrs Ryan
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1. Introduction

In His name we gather. All prayer and liturgy is directed to the glory of His name and for our holiness. To be holy is to try and to come closer to God, and through our work in Catholic education, through the support of this policy, we aim to provide a framework for the Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust, for children, supported by staff to grow in that holiness. As Jesus reminds us in, Psalm 23, *“The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”* Through our continued lifting of our hearts and minds to God across all of our Trust schools, we are reminded through scripture, to offer continual thanksgiving, praise and reflection to our Father.

The greatest prayer we have is the sign of the cross which should ground what we do or say, mark ourselves as His disciples and call on His name to be our courage and strength. Prayer and liturgy is central to our Catholic ethos across all of our schools, and when staff join schools within our Trust, they take on the role of leading and modelling good practice in prayer for our pupils.

As a Trust, we aim to provide a rich variety of prayer and liturgy opportunities and resources which seek to deepen our children’s sense of belonging to both their own school community and the wider Church. Ultimately, our aim as Catholic educators is that children are informed by their faith to discern contemporary culture in an engaged way. Our schools are not solely educational institutions, but they are also communities animated by the Gospel (Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn), for it is by recognizing Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy, and growing closer to Him, that we become closest to God.

The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy

Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust is centered on the love of Christ, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church under the Diocese of Shrewsbury. Within every one of our schools, spiritual development is at the core of all we do, with pupils being provided with a rich and varied prayer life to support their relationships with God, each other and themselves. Daily acts of prayer allow pupils to offer praise, glory and thanksgiving to God, and frame their own spiritual development in the context of today’s world. We aim to teach and foster the Gospel values of love of God and our neighbour, through our curriculums, Chaplaincy events, staff development and leadership. The work of the schools within the CCCAT is conducted in accordance with the Rites, Practices and Observances of the Roman Catholic Church.

What is prayer

“Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words”

- St Francis of Assisi

The word prayer signifies to us ways communicating with God. We have many ways to do this e.g. silence of our hearts, symbols and acts, words, liturgies etc. Each school within our Trust has a wide range of experiences for our children to communicate with God our creator.

Aims of this Policy

It is the responsibility of our Catholic schools to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- Names and celebrates God as being present and active in our human experience
- Is in line with our Catholic tradition
- Develops within our pupils the qualities of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
 - To enrich religious experience
 - To grow in liturgical understanding
 - To reinforce positive attitudes
 - To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

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; Instrument of Government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (The Mainstream Academy and Free School: Supplemental Funding Agreement, December 2020; Model Articles for Catholic Academies, February 2019).

The law requires all maintained schools to recognize 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)).

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.

Each school within our Trust will have a set prayer and liturgy provision which provides pupils, in combination with their academic studies, to experience the fullness of liturgy that the Church has to offer.

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.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

(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:

- Opportunities for staff retreat/ formation/ reflection/ training are supported
- 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 in their respective school, utilising guidance from the Trust Chaplain, and the Trust priest where necessary
- Those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given 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) Trust Chaplaincy and Prayer and Liturgy Coordinators

Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust has a Trust Chaplain who is available to support with Chaplaincy support for Trust schools. Each of those responsible for prayer and liturgy in each school utilizing support and guidance from the Trust Chaplain, 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 as well as with the rites and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- Each school will have an annual plan of provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, patronal feasts as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments, in

accordance with children's stage of sacramental formation as well as understanding of faith.

- 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, for example pupils in older year groups can, through formation, be trained to deliver prayer and liturgy to younger year groups. Each school's individual approach can be found in Appendix B
- Resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils. This includes Trust wide materials, materials available on request from the Chaplain, as well as the Chaplain being able to direct schools to resources as necessary
- Induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required, this is done on the Trust induction day for new staff, as well as within schools so staff have more specific guidance regarding the charism of each respective school as well as their patronal celebrations, form saints and Chaplaincy provision
- Staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities, both within the Trust, as deemed necessary by the diocese, as well as on request from the Trust Chaplain.
- Monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feedback into planning for future liturgies
 - Prayer and liturgy is recorded: on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources; planning proforma for class Prayer and Liturgy; through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc. Each school's individual approach can be found in Appendix C
- 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 Diocese of Shrewsbury is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

(d) Curriculum Leader of Religious Education

- Curriculum, prayer and RE leads will comply with Diocesan Protocols for a committed working relationship between the Diocese and the Catholic Multi Academy Trust Company

- They will ensure that continual communication with and, where appropriate, seek support and guidance from the Diocesan education service.

(e) Teachers are expected to:

- Ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
- Ensure that there are opportunities for quality prayer and liturgy to be delivered
Ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for prayer and liturgy

(f) Pupils are expected to:

- Participate in acts of prayer and liturgy in a respectful and reverent way
- Pupil Leadership examples: Mini Vinnies, Youth SVP, Student Chaplains, Prayer Angels, Worship Leaders

(g) Parents are expected to:

- Promote a positive attitude towards prayer and liturgy

4. Overview of Prayer and Liturgy provision

Available to all Trust schools is a Liturgical Year guidance document, that allows staff to have an overview of key seasons, feast days and celebrations that fall within each half term. This allows our staff to view the Church's calendar in line with their school structure, and celebrate whichever feasts are taking place while children are in school. This document is accessible via the Trust Share Point, as well as support given from the Trust chaplain where necessary.

*Please see Appendix B for a school specific overview that outlines the daily and weekly pattern of prayer and liturgy offered in the school.

(h) Eucharist

The Trust priest or local clergy to the school will lead courses on the Ministry of the Word and Ministry of Holy Communion across the Trust.

Children and staff should have regular opportunities to attend Mass within school, where possible also having Masses for Holydays of Obligation and patronal feast days.

5. Celebration of the Word Format

Celebration of the Word should follow the "Gather, Word/ Listen, Response, Send" format. Staff should be offered training on how to prepare Celebration of the Word, so that they can facilitate student led prayers.

6. 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.

7.Safeguarding

As part of taking part in acts of daily prayer and worship with children, we also take our duty of safeguarding very seriously and we understand that personal prayer and reflection may subsequently lead to a disclosure which would activate each schools well established safeguarding procedures.

8. Training and formation

All new staff will be supported during Trust 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.

9. 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, governors and directors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

10. Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the Trust.

Appendix A

School Mission Statement:

St Peter's Catholic Primary School is a Christ-centred family where every individual person is celebrated with joy and truly valued.

We nurture caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love.

We serve the different communities to which we all belong – home, school and parish, as well as our wider world.

When we welcome the child, we welcome the whole family.

We foster resilience so that we may be the best that we can be; spiritually, morally, academically, socially and physically.

We are guided by our faith, we live each day in the love of God and neighbour, and we aspire to excellence in all we do.

St. Peter, pray for us.

Appendix B

Annual plan of provision that outlines the daily and weekly pattern of prayer and liturgy offered in the school:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daily prayer: morning offering		KS2		All classes	All classes
Daily prayer: Angelus	All classes	All classes	All classes	All classes	All classes
Daily prayer: Grace before and after meals	All classes	All classes	All classes	All classes	All classes
Daily prayer: end	All classes	All classes	All classes	All classes	All classes (as part of

of school day					'Time With Jesus')
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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Celebration of the Word – whole school or key stage	YR – Y6	YR, Y1, Y2			Nursery – Y6
Celebration of the Word – classrooms.	Nursery – adult-led	Nursery Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 – adult-led	All classes – pupil-led (beginning of day)	All classes – adult-led	

Staff Prayer

Celebration of the Word for staff or gathering in prayer as a staff team takes place on a timetabled basis during the first staff meeting of each half term.

All staff meetings also begin with prayer. This is led by the headteacher, deputy headteacher or RE leader.

The headteacher may lead staff prayer or reflection in response to events in our school, or to national or global events.

Individual Prayer

Teachers offer formation and facilitation to our children when writing individual prayers of intercession for Mass (for the whole school and for a class).

Children are warmly invited to offer their individual prayers and responses during adult-led Celebration of the Word in classes.

Our 'Be Still' space is open for children and adults to drop into during morning break on the last day of each half term.

Staff and adult visitors are most welcome to use our 'Be Still' space for individual prayer at any time.

Traditional Prayer

<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
YN – sign of the cross YR – Our Father Y1 – Hail Mary Y3 – Spoken Angelus Y4 – Memorare Y5 – UKS2 morning offering Y6 – Rosary (including conclusion to the Rosary)	YN – morning offering Y1 – Grace after meals Y2 – Eternal rest Y3 – Gloria Y4 – St Richard of Chichester Y5 – Magnificat Y6 – Act of Faith	YN – St Peter's Prayer YR and Y1 – Prayer to guardian angel Y5 – Act of Hope Y6 – Benedictus	YN – Grace before meals Y2 – Act of Contrition Y3 – Angel of God Y4 – Confiteor Y5 – Act of Love Y6 – Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Y3 – Prayer to the Holy Spirit Y5 – Hail, Holy Queen	YR and Y1 – Glory Be Y4 – Apostles' Creed

Appendix C

Traditional Prayers

Grace after meals at St. Peter's

EYFS and KS1

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.

Thank you, God, for all our friends.

Thank you, God, for everything.

Amen

KS2

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.

Thank you, God, for our friends and neighbours.

Thank you, God, for everything.

Amen

Morning Offering for Older Children at St. Peter's

O Jesus,

Through the most pure heart of Mary,

I offer you all my prayers, thoughts, works and joys of this day

For all the intentions of your most sacred heart.

Amen

Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,

For all the benefits which you have given me.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother,

May I know you more clearly,

Love you more dearly,

And follow you more nearly,

Day by day.

Amen.

Act of Hope

My God, I hope in you,

For grace and for glory,

Because of your promises,

Your mercy and your power.

Act of Faith

My God, I believe in you

And all that your Church teaches,

Because you have said it,

And your word is true.

Angel of God (Guardian Angel Prayer)

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Act of Love

My God, because you are so good,
I love you with all my heart,
And for your sake,
I love your neighbour as myself.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

(Leader) Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful,
(Response) And kindle in them the fire of Your love.
(Leader) Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created,
(Response) And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray:

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,

Did instruct the hearts of your faithful,
Grant that by the same Holy Spirit
We may be truly wise and ever rejoice in your consolation,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
On the third day, He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
From there, He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers concluding the Rosary (Year 6, Autumn 1)

Leader: Pray for us, O holy mother of God

Response: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Leader: Let us pray ...

O God, whose only begotten Son,
By his life, death and resurrection
Has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,
Grant, we beseech thee,
That meditating on these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin
Mary,
We may imitate what they contain
And obtain what they promise,
Through the same Christ our Lord,
Amen

The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:
For he has visited his people and redeemed them;
He has raised up for us a horn of salvation in the House of David, his servant,
As he spoke through the mouth of his holy ones,
His prophets from ages past:
To grant salvation from our foes,
And from the hand of all who hate us,
Showing mercy to our fathers,
Remembering his holy covenant;

The oath he swore to Abraham our father,
To grant that, freed from the hand of our foes,
We may serve him without fear
In holiness and righteousness all the days of our life.

And you, little child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
For you will go before the Lord to make ready his ways:
To grant knowledge of salvation to his people
By the forgiveness of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God,
The Dawn from on high will visit us,
To shine on those who sit in darkness,
And those in the shadow of death;
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end,
Amen

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last moments.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

Memorare

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary,
That it is a thing unheard of
That anyone ever had recourse to your protection,
Implored your help, or sought your intercession,
And was left forsaken.
Filled, therefore, with confidence in your goodness,

I fly to you, O mother, virgin of virgins.

To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner.

Despise not my words, O mother of the Word,

But graciously hear and grant my prayer.

Amen

Appendix D

Quality Assurance process for prayer and liturgy

- Celebration of the Word electronic books are monitored by the RE leader and celebrated as a school.
- The local governing body carry out monitoring of prayer and liturgy by joining all classes for prayer and Celebration of the Word annually.
- Pupil and parent voice is gathered annually in order to seek feedback on ways in which opportunities in Prayer and Liturgy at our school may be even further enhanced.
- Monitoring of children's responses related to school's scale of progression in Prayer and Liturgy is carried out by one of the Prayer and Liturgy leaders annually.
- The leaders of Prayer and Liturgy monitor the impact of this policy annually.
- The Prayer and Liturgy leaders and the parish priest monitor opportunities for children and staff to attend Mass on Holydays and on the patronal feast day.
- The Prayer and Liturgy leaders, along with the parish priest (who is the link governor for faith and for Religious Education) monitor the Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer and Liturgy annually.
- The RE leader monitors the budget and resources for Prayer and Liturgy.
- The leaders in Prayer and Liturgy monitor the impact of Continuing Professional Development, and plan future development for the knowledge and skill of all adults leading Prayer and Liturgy within our school.