

# All Saints Catholic College

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy



**Approved by:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Last reviewed on:**

**Next review due by:** January 2024

Prayer and Liturgy at All Saints Catholic College provides time and space for us give glory and praise to God and is the bedrock of the spiritual and ethical life of pupils and staff alike.

We believe there should be regular opportunities for members of our College community to meet together to experience Liturgy, Liturgical Prayer and Daily Prayer which reflects the traditions, disciplines, and norms of the Church. We believe it is important to provide time and space for both Sacramental celebration, community prayer and personal reflection.

College recognises that our community is made up of members who

- Form part of the worshipping community in parish churches;
- Those for whom College may be their first and only experience of Church;
- Those from other Christian traditions;
- Those from other faith backgrounds – or none

Therefore, it is essential that we help our staff and pupils understand the purpose and language of Prayer and Liturgy. Through opportunity for prayer and liturgy we provide authentic opportunities where our pupils and staff can

- Take time out to 'wonder at,' 'reflect on' and 'respond to the Word of God
- Develop their own spirituality and ways to listen and communicate with God
- Grow in liturgical understanding
- Experience the liturgical traditions and prayers of the Church
- Recognise key liturgical themes throughout the year
- Reflect on what it means to be human created Imago Dei
- Develop a sense of belonging and community
- Share our common values
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Explore and respond to the needs of others
- Demonstrate our values of Respect and Cooperation when we allow one another the time and space for prayer
- Put the Gospel into daily action through the College core values of Respect, Family, Community, Resilience, Excellence and of course Faith
- Develop a confidence in leading Prayer

### **Daily Prayer**

Each morning pupils along with their Form Tutors, with the support of the school Chaplain, have an opportunity to pray together. Prayers include

- Our College Morning Offering
- Prayers from the Catholic tradition
- The Sunday Gospel,
- Prayer themes which reflect on global/local events and pray for those affected. Which encourage a sense of empathy and global responsibility for our neighbours.

Form groups are encouraged to take ownership of form time prayer by developing a prayer space on which to add their own personal prayer intentions.

Through the provision of calendared prayer experiences, meditations, prayer stations, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and retreats pupils have the opportunity to experience prayer in all its forms.

### **Staff Prayer**

In the same way it is important that we provide time and space for our staff to pray.

- Staff meetings/briefings begin with a prayer or reflection.

### **Assemblies**

At All Saints Catholic College, assembling pupils to pray as a year group is an integral part of our daily College life and central to the experience pupils and staff have to prepare and lead liturgical prayer. Our Assemblies are specifically religious in nature and distinct from our business meetings.

They follow the same liturgical form of:

- Pupils line up in form groups on the main yard. Form Tutors should register pupils and should check any uniform infractions
- The Head of Year should stand on the step (at the entrance to the Hall) overlooking the pupils, checking for uniform issues and ensuring pupils are silent
- The SLT member assigned for that day should be at the front of the hall ensuring pupils are silent and respectful
- Pupils enter the main hall in silence and sit in silence awaiting the rest of the year group.
- Pupils stand and are instructed to correct uniform
- Pupils are greeted with good morning and respond
- The College mantra is given and pupils repeat
- All give the sign of the Sign of Cross, Opening Prayer or Prayer
- Pupils are asked to be seated
- Exploration of Religious Theme as indicated by the assembly rota for the year
- Reference to scripture and the College core values
- Closing Prayer
- Sign of the Cross
- Notices/Awards (Tutors should take a register as notices are shared)
- If Notices/Awards are likely to detract from the purpose of the assembly, be used as a means of disciplining pupils or cause the act of Assembly to overrun, these should be delivered in Form Period

The Assembly Time is 08.55 - 9.15 And each year group will experience assembly on a different day

- Monday Year 11
- Tuesday Year 10
- Wednesday Year 9
- Thursday Year
- Friday Year 7

Assemblies follow a calendar of themes that reflect the liturgical year, global events, our core values, our civic/moral and theological virtues for example: charity or another aspect of C S T for example: Peace/Justice /Human Dignity. Assemblies often support PSHE through the impact the Gospel has on social and moral issues, for example: the environment and discrimination. They also provide opportunity to celebrate achievement, give recognition to the God given gifts and talents of our pupils and reinforce positive attitudes.

***During any period of 'Remote Learning' or when the Hall is not available these are recorded and shared during remote Form time by the Form Tutor/Year Leader.***

Throughout the year there are calendared opportunities for pupils and to gather in the College Hall or St Mary's Chapel to share a variety of liturgies for Advent, Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Reconciliation.

### **Celebrating the Sacraments**

#### **The Mass**

- For many of our pupils and staff, All Saints provides their first and often only experience of church. Many have no experience of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is therefore important that all pupils and staff develop an understanding of the importance and rich symbolism of the Mass, and for staff to develop a confidence to help pupils prepare their year group Mass. The first Mass for each Year Group in 2022 will take the form of an Instructional Mass, whereby pupils will be given responsibility to develop an understanding of each stage of the Mass in order that they can prepare the Mass and share their understanding with their peers.
- As part of the residential retreat experiences, pupils have opportunities to prepare and contribute to the Mass.
- Pupils and staff celebrate the Diocesan Family of Schools Mass at the end of the Academic Year
- Staff and governors celebrate the start and end of the academic year with an Instructional Mass.
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#### **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered as part of our Lent liturgies.

#### **Retreat Experiences**

Residential and Day retreats offer unique and valuable opportunities to support pupil and staff prayer and liturgical experiences.

#### **Monitoring**

The College Prayer and Liturgical Life is monitored through

- Learning walks by members of the Chaplaincy Team/ HOY/ SLT
- Form visits by the chaplaincy team
- SLT presence at Assemblies/Liturgies
- Regular reports to Governors
- Pupil voice

#### **The right to withdrawal**

The College recognises right of withdrawal by Parents from collective worship. In line with the CES "[Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship.](#)" If such a request is made, we would invite an open discussion with the family/pupil to understand the grounds for withdrawal and discuss the practical implications of withdrawal.

