

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

*A Community of Faith and learning following Jesus in
all we think, do and say*



Prayer and Liturgy Policy 2025-2026

Policy approved by	Senior Leadership Team & RE Link Governor
Date of approval	October 2025
Date of next review	October 2026

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

At St. Mary of the Angels we work together
to develop a loving relationship with God and each other,
following Jesus in all that we think, do and say.
We aim to provide a broad, balanced and creative curriculum
to enable every child to develop their gifts from God
and be the best they can be.

School Prayer

Loving Father,
bless our school and fill our hearts with love,
friendship and forgiveness.
Help every child to grow
and achieve the best that they can.
When we find things difficult give us the
courage to carry on.
We thank you for all of our friends and classmates.
Bless our families, our community and all who help
us in our school.
Help us to follow in your footsteps.

Amen

St. Mary of the Angels

Pray for us

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;

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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 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.

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 (Mrs Sarah Alley)

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 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) Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator (Mrs Colette Hough, DH)

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

[In this section of the policy, an overview of the provision is given. It will outline when prayer and liturgy take place, and the daily and weekly pattern of prayer and liturgy offered in the school. It will also include when Mass is celebrated across the year, when there are opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and when there are special liturgies. This section of the policy is similar to but less detailed than the Annual Plan of Provision. The Annual Plan of Provision will include, for example, dates, who is responsible, and much more detail.]

5. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is 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.

6. Training and formation

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

7. Monitoring and evaluation

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

8. Review

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

Common prayers

This list is introduced in section 7.10 ('Common prayers').

Age phase	EYFS	KS1	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)
Prayers	- The Sign of the Cross - The Lord's Prayer - Hail Mary - Grace before meals (EYFS version) - Grace after meals (EYFS Version)	- The Sign of the Cross - The Lord's Prayer - Hail Mary - Glory be - Grace before meals - Grace after meals	- The Apostles' Creed - An Act of Contrition - Angel of God - Come, Holy Spirit - The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester	- Morning Offering - The Rosary - The Magnificat - Act of Faith - Act of Hope - Act of Love

The Sign of the Cross

*In the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

The sign of the cross is both an action and a statement of faith. A physical reminder of our redemption in the cross and an expression of faith in the Trinity.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is
in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and
forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead
us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

The Lord's Prayer 'is truly the summary of the whole of the Gospel'. (CCC 2761.)

The Hail Mary

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the
Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.*

The first part of the Hail Mary is biblical, drawn from Gabriel's greeting to Mary at the Annunciation and Elizabeth's greeting at the Visitation. The second part of the prayer has its origins in 15th-century Italy.

Glory be to the Father

*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.*

The doxology is a short expression of praise of the Trinity dating back to the early Church. It is used extensively in the Liturgy of the Hours and in devotions such as the Rosary.

Grace before meals

*Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about
to receive from your bounty.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Grace after meals

*We give you thanks, Almighty God, for all
your benefits, who live and reign, world
without end. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the
Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,*

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

*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.*

Based on baptismal documents of the 8th century but related to texts of an earlier origin.

Act of Contrition

*O my God,
because you are so good,
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and with
the help of your grace I will not sin again.*

One of the forms of the Penitent's Prayer of Sorrow found in the Rite of Penance.

Angel of God

*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.*

The prayer is based on one by Reginald of Canterbury in the early 12th century.

Come, Holy Spirit

*V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
R. And you will 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 that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly
wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation, Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

This prayer is a compilation of a number of liturgical texts drawn from the Mass and Office of Pentecost and the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

*Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you
have given me, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for
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.*

Morning Offering

*O Jesus,
through the most pure heart of Mary, I offer you all my
prayers, thoughts, works and sufferings of this day for all
the intentions of your most Sacred heart.*

The Rosary

For each mystery or decade, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be is recited.

The Joyful Mysteries

(Recited Monday and Saturday)

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

The Visitation (Luke 1:39–45)

The Nativity (Luke 2:1–7)

The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–35)

The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

The Mysteries of Light

(Recited Thursday)

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)

The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1–12)

The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to Conversion (Mark 1:14–15; 2:3–12)

The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28–36)

The Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26–29)

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Recited Tuesday and Friday)

The Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32–42)

The Scouring at the Pillar (Matthew 27:15–26)

The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31)

The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:15–17; Luke 23:27–32)

The Crucifixion (Luke 23:33–38, 44–46)

The Glorious Mysteries

(Recited Wednesday and Sunday)

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1–8)

The Ascension (Acts 1:6–11)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–12)

The Assumption (1 Thessalonians 4:13–19)

The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1; 14:1–5; Isaiah 6:1–3)

Prayer concluding the Rosary

[Hail, Holy Queen, etc. as above]

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

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 Magnificat

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit
rejoices in God my Saviour,*

for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness; for behold, from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.

For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age for those who fear him.

He has made known the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted those who are lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, mindful of his mercy, even as he promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.

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.

Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55). It is sung daily at Evening Prayer.

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.

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 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.

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.

The Canticle of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, is taken from Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:68–79). It is sung daily at Morning Prayer.

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary.

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray;

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus is traditionally said three times a day: at 6am, 12 noon, and 6pm.

Hail, Holy Queen (Salve Regina)

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,

Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.

To thee do we send up our sighs,

mourning and weeping in this valley of tears! Turn,

then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy

toward us, and after this, our exile,

show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement,

O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Salve Regina is one of the Marian Anthems sung at Night Prayer.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee,

O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

A 16th-century version of a longer 15th-century prayer.

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 agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Based on the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for the Dead.

References

- 1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2097
- 2 *Mediator Dei*, 17 (see Hebrews 10:5–7)
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- 4 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1069
- 5 *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 83
- 6 *Lumen Gentium*, 7
- 7 *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7
- 8 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2643
- 9 *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 2
- 10 Congregation for Catholic Education (2007), *Educating Together in Catholic Schools*, 26 11 *Mediator Dei*, 29
- 12 *Directory for Catechesis*, 86–87
- 13 Department for Education (1994), *Religious Education and Collective Worship*
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- 17 *Gaudium et Spes*, 1
- 18 *Lumen Gentium*, 22
- 19 Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (1993), *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism*, 126
- 20 *Unitatis Redintegratio*, 19
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- 23 *Gaudium et Spes*, 1
- 24 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1156
- 25 *Catechesis Tradendae*, 55
- 26 *ESV-CE Catholic Bible, Anglicized* (2021), SPCK
- 27 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (2005), *Celebrating the Mass*, 114