

Liturgy and Prayer at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School.



"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. "

John 10:10

Intent

St Wilfrid's is a Catholic school which seeks to live out the values of Jesus Christ - founded on His commandment to, 'Love one another.' We are committed to the Catholic Faith, recognising and valuing every individual as unique, created in the image and likeness of God.

We believe that liturgy and prayer in a Catholic school celebrates God's presence in our lives and is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

As a Catholic school, we are fully committed to providing opportunities for all children to know, love and serve God, in such a way that will enrich their own lives and help them to understand their Catholic faith traditions, in an ever changing world and within the multicultural society they live in.

To this effect, we believe that Liturgy and Prayer in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a positive attitude to those of other cultures and faiths
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To participate fully
- To take time to grow close to God in the stillness of His presence.
- To take to develop a sense of 'awe and wonder'

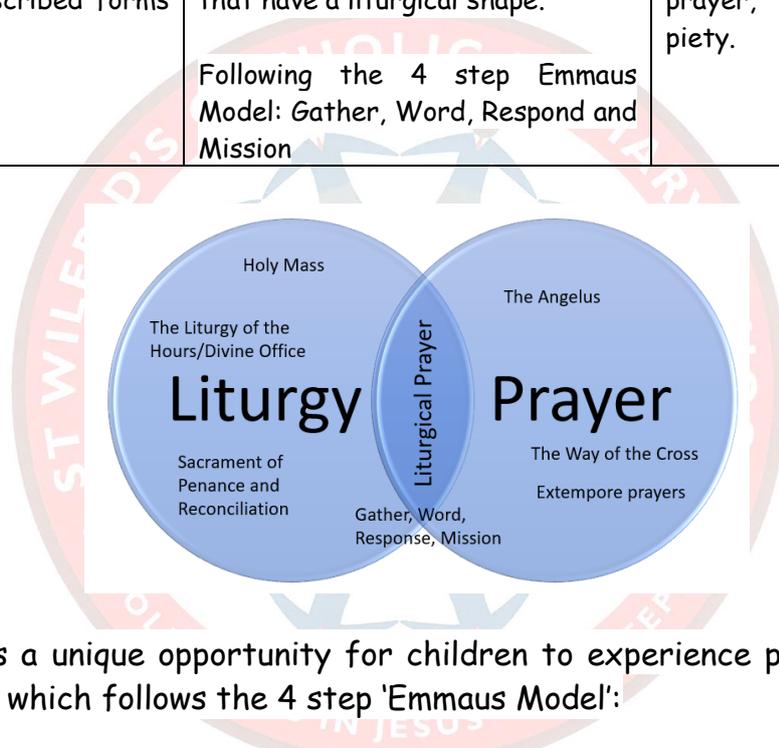
Implementation

"To be used of God. Is there anything more encouraging, more fulfilling? Perhaps not, but there is something more basic: to meet with God. To linger in His presence, to shut out the noise of the world and, in quietness, give Him the praise He deserves. Before we engage ourselves in His work, let's meet Him in His Word... in prayer... in worship." (C Swindoll).

In line with both our legal requirement and, most importantly, our faith commitments, acts of prayer, liturgy or liturgical prayer take place daily.

There are distinct differences between the three activities, as outlined below:

<u>Liturgy</u>	<u>Liturgical Prayer</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
Those rites of the Church for which there are prescribed forms and texts	Experiences of collective prayer that have a liturgical shape. Following the 4 step Emmaus Model: Gather, Word, Respond and Mission	A conversation with God, public prayer, personal prayer, popular piety.



Liturgical Prayer is a unique opportunity for children to experience prayer with a liturgical structure or shape which follows the 4 step 'Emmaus Model':

The Emmaus Model for Liturgy

Jesus himself came up and walked by their side <i>Luke 24:15</i>		Gather
Then starting with Moses and going through all the prophets <i>Luke 24:27</i>	Luke 24:13-35	Listen
He took bread and said the blessing <i>Luke 24:30</i>		Respond
They set out that instant <i>Luke 24:33</i>		Go

These acts take place in different forms; a single act of prayer (in its many forms) for all children, separate acts for individual classes, key stages or whole school Gospel/scripture based activities or the celebration of Mass.

We support and acknowledge the fact that Liturgy, Prayer and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the differences between them will always be made clear.

Liturgy and Prayer is additional to the designated curriculum time for Religious Education although such activities may be used as a way of showing skills progression in RE .

Broadly, what we do across the school year is organised as follows:

<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Liturgical Prayer</u>	<u>Liturgy</u>
<p><i>Most prayer does not have a liturgical form. Prayer can be individual, public, private, silent, a reflection, in song etc. Prayer can have a traditional form or be spontaneous.</i></p>	<p><i>Liturgical prayer is prayer that follows the liturgical form but enables us to have more flexibility and freedom to be creative with choices. It follows the 4 step Emmaus model for Liturgy (giving it a liturgical shape).</i></p>	<p><i>Liturgy has a set form set out in the rubrics (Liturgical and Sacramental Law) of the Catholic Church and has limited room for change. It follows the 4 step Emmaus model for Liturgy.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Angelus • The Rosary • Daily Prayer • Prayer through song • Extempore (spontaneous) prayer • Retreats • Silent prayer • Reflection • Stations of the Cross • Lectio and Visio Divina (prayer through scripture and art) • Crowning of Mary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel Assembly • Classroom Liturgical Prayer including child-led activities (formerly known as Collective Worship). • Wednesday Word - School Values Assembly • Advent and Lent Penance services • Advent and Lent prayer trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Mass • Sacrament of Reconciliation • Holy Communion

Prayer

Daily prayer takes place as detailed above.

Liturgical prayer

Throughout the year, a carefully planned child-centred programme of events is celebrated which takes into account key events in the Church's liturgical calendar such as Advent and Lenten. It also considers elements of Catholic Social Teaching, Feast Days, world events, the work of groups such as CAFOD, inspirational people and recognises/includes other faith traditions.

In addition to this, a weekly programme of Liturgical Prayer is prepared by the Liturgy and Prayer co-ordinator and is made available to all teachers to celebrate with their classes. This internally planned programme is aligned to the Church's liturgical calendar so is directly linked

to the Gospel or other scripture for each week. *Please see our Liturgical Prayer Medium Term plans for the content of this each half term.*

All our acts of Liturgical Prayer following the best practice 4-step Emmaus model for Liturgy.

The availability of a programme of activities and its consistent planning, enables children of all ages to respond to, engage with, and make sense of, the Word of God before participating in a wide range of spiritually-enriching linked activities. Teachers are encouraged to make use of both indoor and outdoor spaces to celebrate prayer and liturgy and to evidence this in

From this starting point, children are actively encouraged to plan, lead and participate in their own prayer and liturgy activities as appropriate to their age and theological understanding. *Please see our 'Formation in the Liturgical Life of the Catholic School' for suggested expectations for each Key Stage.*

Liturgy and Prayer Leaders

There are a number of Liturgy and Prayer Leaders selected from each class. Each have been blessed in their roles and have embarked upon their training to plan and lead classroom liturgical prayer activities. They are being supported by the Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator and their class teachers.

Liturgy (Holy Mass) and sacramental celebrations

Mass and other sacramental celebrations take place as follows:

<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
New Beginnings - New school year	All Saints/ Remembrance	Feast of the Epiphany	Holy Week Easter	Feast of the Ascension	Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul.
Feast of St Wilfrid	Feast of Christ the King (The Universal Church).	Ash Wednesday Lent Reconciliation Services		Feast of Pentecost	Leavers/end of school year.
	Advent/Liturgies Advent Reconciliation Services	First Reconciliation Service.		First Holy Communion	

These Liturgies are carefully prepared by the Liturgy and Prayer co-ordinator to meet with the prescriptive requirements as defined by Catholic Church. All such liturgies are pre-agreed with the Parish Priest, Father Paul Standish.

Impact

At St Wilfrid's, we are extremely proud of the Liturgy and Prayer activities we have in place and so we monitor this carefully to ensure their impact remains current and effective.

We are constantly looking for new ideas and ways to improve. We ask for anyone leading such activities to plan and evaluate their activities to encourage continuous improvement.

Liturgy and Prayer activities helps to ensure that our children leave St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School with a recognition of the importance of making time and space for worshipping God and the ability to 'be still and one with God'.

Through the overall programme, we feel our children are made aware of their social, moral, spiritual and cultural responsibilities and understand how to make positive contributions to the local and global community.

As is the case with our RE curriculum programme, through their Liturgy and Prayer activities, children deepen their appreciation of their faith and fulfil their God-given talents. They are able to reflect, celebrate and live their faith in an active and positive way, always aware of the presence and love of Jesus Christ guiding them.

Through our acts of Liturgy and Prayer, whether in groups, classes, whole school or parish, we aim to provide a pathway for all of children and staff to achieve spiritual growth - by planting the seeds in our school community- in the knowledge of the love and support of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

LK Cannavan

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