



St Martin de Porres Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy November 2020

'Our schools must be worshipping communities, for true worship in spirit and truth is a sign of our living as a Christian community'
(Our Catholic Schools – Mgr Kevin McGinnell)

We believe that prayer brings everyone together into the presence of God. It is a vital part of our life and draws us together as a community; it is our loving response, in word and action to God. Therefore, we aim to implement our mission statement, 'Working together in the light of the Lord' through thought, word and deed.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but there will always be an opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual development.

Aims

- to give the children in our care the opportunities to explore their feelings and attitudes towards different life experiences
- to help them towards a deepening relationship with God
- to help staff develop their prayer life and spirituality
- to help parents develop their prayer life and spirituality
- to come together as a caring community to pray, reflect, celebrate, praise, worship, thank and recognise God in our lives.

Strategies

Collective Worship takes place throughout the school on a daily basis in whole school, year groups or classroom context:

- Monday - Stage Collective Worship led by members of staff via TEAMS
- Tuesday - Class based led by class teachers
- Wednesday - Hymns in class.
- Thursday - Class based led by class teachers
- Friday - Whole school celebration assembly led by Head teacher via TEAMS
- House Captains hold assemblies every half term via TEAMS
- Beginning and end of term whole school Collective Worship led by Headteacher.
- Faith Ambassadors lead end of RE topic collective worship to their class,
- Class led Collective Worship is unable to be offered to parents and governors due to COVID-19 (Lent term – offer this via TEAMS)
- At the end of the Advent Term the Reception children lead a special Nativity assembly. *This will be recorded and uploaded on Remote Learning Platform*

- At the end of Advent term, The School Choir, School Council, Faith Ambassadors and Head Boy & Girl take part in the Carol Concert. *This year this is to be recorded involving all classes and uploaded to Remote Learning Platform.*
- Year 3 lead an Easter celebration at the end of the Lent Term. *This maybe recorded due to COVID-19 and uploaded to Remote Learning Platform.*
- The children's work, good behaviour and attendance is rewarded and celebrated at these assemblies by receiving certificates and 'Stars of the Week'
- The Parish Priest makes weekly visits to each class on a rotational basis to share their Collective Worship. *This has been postponed until the Lent term due to COVID-19*

Mass

We believe that the celebration of Holy Mass should draw together all the elements of liturgy with clear simple themes, using language and music appropriate to our community. Some of our children have yet to receive the Eucharist, therefore we aim to give them experiences of age appropriate forms of worship e.g. assemblies, liturgies of the Word etc.

- Staff Mass at the beginning of each School Year.
- KS2 Mass and KS1 Liturgy for the children at the beginning of the School Year.
- Deanery staff mass
- Key Stage Masses and Class Liturgies are held in school on some Holy Days and other special occasions. The Parish Priest of St Martin's, supported by other priests and deacons in the Deanery, celebrates on these occasions.
- Diocesan Schools Mass.
- On the First Friday of each month Year 6 children attend mass at St Martin's Church.
- Year Group Masses at the Church
- Thanksgiving First Communion Mass.
- End of Year Thanksgiving Leavers Mass.
- St Martin de Porres Feast day 3rd November, Liturgy transmitted to all classes via TEAMS

Due to COVID-19, the diocese has advised school to not hold masses at least until after the Advent term.

