



# De La Salle School

## PRAYER AND LITURGY POLICY

<b>Status</b>	Internal
<b>Responsible Governors' Committee</b>	Curriculum Committee
<b>Responsible Person</b>	J Wellens
<b>Ratified Date</b>	May 2024
<b>Review Date</b>	May 2027

## Version Control

Version Date	Changes/Comments
May 2024	Updated version of the school's Collective Worship Policy, written in line with Archdiocese guidance and requirements.

“You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.”  
*St. John Baptist De La Salle*

### **The Nature of Prayer and Liturgy at De La Salle**

We believe that by beginning each day with an act of prayer and liturgy, we strengthen and support what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Christian worship in our Catholic community is concerned with taking the time to encounter God and become aware of His presence in our daily lives. Within this time we give glory, praise and thanks to God for everything that He has given us.

Prayer and liturgy are rooted in the distinct Lasallian nature of our school and the pillars of Lasallian spirituality, faith, service and community. Worship in our school community is more than just a legal requirement but an integral part of our daily school life which must strive to be inclusive of all members of our community, staff and students, regardless of where they may be personally on their faith journey. Any encounter with God should also change our lives, which is why our worship should therefore meet students where they are at, yet challenge them and journey with them, through their own human experience so that our worship becomes a lived expression of the daily life, needs and concerns of our Catholic community.

Whilst we understand prayer and liturgy to be much more than a legality, we acknowledge that the law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily worship for all students (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (Schedule 20, School Standards and Framework Act 1998; Clause 2, Instrument of Government).

Our school community, pupils and staff, consists of a range of faith backgrounds and none. We maintain that our acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, but out of respect to those participating, it is not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times. The law recognises and respects parents’ legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (S71 (1A), School Standards and Framework Act 1998).

### **Aims**

- To provide staff and students with opportunities for authentic worship in its many forms, equipping them with tools for their own personal times of prayer
- To celebrate the distinct Lasallian spirituality which underpins our community
- To give genuine opportunities for silent contemplation, reflection, personal response and prayer
- To help develop each individual’s personal relationship with God, and affirm them in the knowledge they are created in His image, and loved immeasurably by Him
- To respond to life’s challenges and celebrate life’s joys, and to help understand how God is present in every part of life
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all members of our community
- To express our shared faith as a Christian community thus reinforcing a sense of belonging and community
- To broaden horizons, and to foster a culture of an active faith which reaches out to those in need, both those in our community and those across the world

At De La Salle, we will fulfil this by:

- Ensuring each act of worship (in tutor groups or assemblies) is seen, daily and consistently, as an important part of school life
- Respecting the integrity of the individual, yet providing opportunities for creative participation, encouraging each to make an individual response to a shared experience

- Endeavouring to provide a structure, routine and physical environment (in both assemblies and classroom worship) that is appropriate to the provision of genuine and authentic moments of worship.
- Ensuring students have a sense of ownership of collective worship and take an active role in its planning and delivery

### **Provision**

In line with the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church, we follow a daily, weekly, monthly and annual pattern of prayer and liturgy. Throughout the year there may be times of special worship in line with the needs of the community, such as a bereavement in the community. A list of experiences offered can be found below:

- Daily prayer as a form class, including weekly extended worship, giving form groups the opportunity to plan and prepare their own prayer
- Weekly prayer during assembly
- Weekly prayer for staff members in briefing
- Weekly morning prayer for staff members before school
- Weekly visit to local parish for morning mass with Key Stage 3
- Monthly day of prayer held in chapel to pray for peace in our world
- Monthly mass for house groups/year groups
- Founder's Day Mass during annual mission week
- Celebration Mass for year 11
- Community Mass for new year 7 cohort and new staff commissioning
- Moments of worship at key times in the year, such as Lent, Advent, Remembrance and Holocaust memorial
- Prayers for those making the Sacrament of Confirmation

### **Training and Formation**

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility that carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school.

We view form tutors as formators of the children entrusted to their care. To best support them in their role, individual training needs will be identified and addressed through formators formation.

Staff across the school will have opportunities for their own faith development throughout the year via formation, CPD and staff retreat.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We will ensure that monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy takes place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: students, parents, staff, clergy and Governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidence as appropriate.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or as changes are required.

**APPENDIX 1: PRAYER AND LITURGY PLANNER**



# PRAYER AND LITURGY

Use this framework to plan an effective moment of Prayer and Liturgy. Remember, prayer moments should help people enter into a reflective space, a space where they can encounter the God in their life and have meaningful interaction.



Our prayer should always start with a welcome, something that gathers people together. In our Lasallian school, we have our prayer and response that welcomes us into God's presence. Our welcome helps us to set the right mood for prayer.

Our prayers in this school start with;

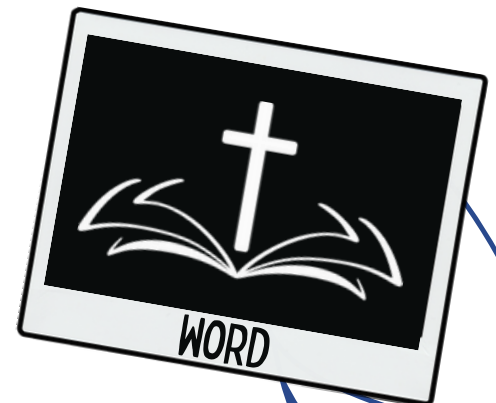
**Leader: Let us remember that we're in the holy presence of God**

**Response: And let us adore Him.**

When we gather as a community in prayer, or for liturgy, we are doing so in the presence of God.

We use this time to listen to the Word of God through the Scriptures. Our theme and the style of prayer we use should be built around the Word to help us connect with the message of God.

When choosing the Scripture we would like to use, it has to be appropriate for the right time of our liturgical year, and for our age.



This is our opportunity to explore different styles of prayer and worship. It is during our worship time that we are entering into conversation with God. This could be done through silent reflection, spontaneous prayer, traditional prayer, appropriate music, use of art or artefacts, asking saints to join you in prayer.

We use our prayers to connect to God, to give thanks for all of the blessings in our life, but to also ask for God to keep an extra eye on things that we're worried or anxious about.

Once we've communicated our praise and requests to God, that isn't our job done...we then need to work on meeting God in the middle. Our prayer and liturgy should also challenge us and help us identify opportunities to go forth and contribute to the world, or work on ourselves and our relationships with the world, with others and with God.

Our prayers in this school end with;

**Leader: Live Jesus in our Heart**

**Response: Forever.**


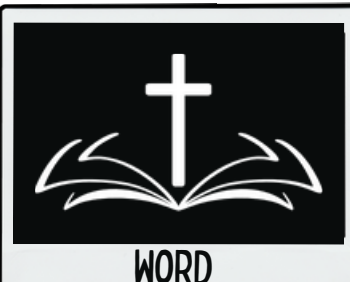






# PRAYER AND LITURGY PLANNER

Use this framework to plan an effective moment of Prayer and Liturgy.

Remember, prayer moments should help people enter into a reflective space, a space where they can encounter the God in their life and have meaningful interaction.

<b>Students:</b> <b>Leader (staff):</b> <b>Date:</b>	
<b>Theme of Worship</b> (Remember to make sure this is appropriate for your age and for the liturgical year!)	<b>Preparation Required</b> (what resources or time do you need?)
 <p><b>WELCOME</b></p>	Plan how you will welcome and gather people. Remember to start with the sign of the cross and our Lasallian prayer and response. Choose one of our welcome cards for an idea
 <p><b>WORD</b></p>	Write your plan here
 <p><b>WORSHIP</b></p>	Choose the scripture that you would like to use. In your pack, you can find scripture for a number of different themes, but you can also choose one of your own...just make sure that it is appropriate for the time in the Liturgical year.
 <p><b>WORK</b></p>	Write your plan here
	This is our opportunity to pray, reflect or worship in a joyful way. Our prayers could be prayers of apology, to ask for something or to give thanks for something. Reflection could be done through questioning or meditation, you could make links to saints and modern day people of faith.
	This is your opportunity to challenge people to go out and work on making our community and our world a better place. We end with our Sign of the Cross and our Lasallian prayer and response.

# WELCOME, WORD, WORSHIP, WORK



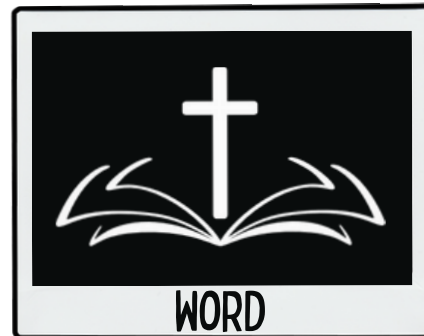
# PRACTICAL IDEAS



We are a Lasallian school community, meaning that we are inclusive of all people, and all people are welcome as we gather together in prayer.

Use the checklist below to plan your prayer and liturgy.

- Music: will you have instrumental music or a song as people settle?
- Who will lead the Sign of the Cross?
- Prayer Box
- Lasallian prayer and response (leader: let us remember that we're in the holy presence of God. Response: and let us adore Him)
- Welcome and introduction to the theme
- Will you have a PowerPoint?
- Will you have a display with symbols? (objects, cross, pictures, candles)
- Remember that any cloths, displays or PowerPoints should include the correct liturgical colour (the liturgical cycle can be found on the back page of your pack)



Many people within our community do not attend church, and being a Catholic school, this means that school is the only place where people can hear the Word of God. Each moment of prayer and liturgy should have Scripture at the heart of it.

- You should always introduce scripture (use the scripture sheet for the correct introductions)
- Make sure your scripture is relevant to the time of year and the theme you would like to use (you can use the scripture cards to help you pick one)
- You should have the Bible present during your time of prayer
- Think about who will read it, will it be one voice, or more? will you read it once, or repeat it?
- Scripture needs to be responded to, so make sure to use the correct response (you can find this on the scripture sheet)
- To help people understand the scripture you have chosen you should be able to explain it in a way that is relevant to the group in front of you, how will you explain it?
- It is useful to link the scripture to our reality and context, can you make any links to our school values or to current issues in the world?
- Will you give time for reflection on what you have said?



Our worship is the way in which we choose to respond to the Word of God. It is our way of connecting more deeply to the theme of the scripture reading. For example, if the reading is about love, choose a film clip that shows love, and help people to think about this.

- Will you take people through some prayers? They could be prayers of apology, prayers asking God for something, or prayers of thanksgiving (use our prayer sheets to support you in writing them)
- Will you include a clip or a song?
- Will you use a period of silence for people to reflect?
- Will people get creative like writing on a template or drawing?
- Will people complete an action, like standing up or giving the sign of peace?
- Will people discuss with a partner or people near them?
- Will there be a dance or performance?



In our Christian school community, we should be moved by prayer and liturgy and put what we have heard into action in the world. Our ultimate aim is to create a community of active citizens who spread the Good News and bring people a little closer to God through their actions.

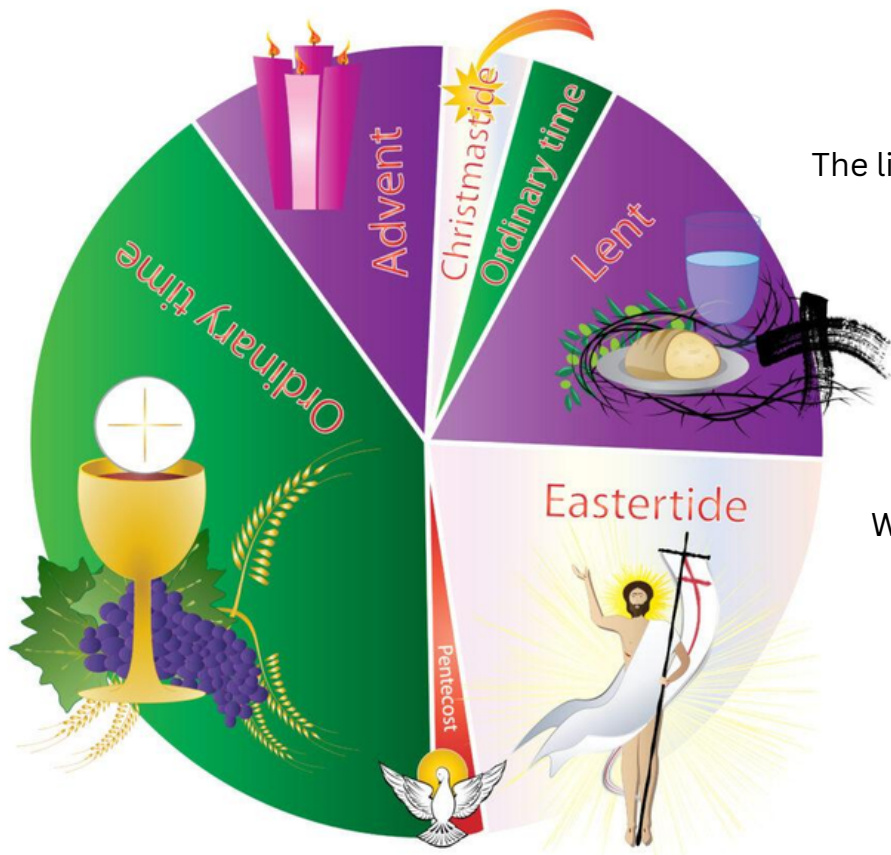
How will you send people out to work after prayer?

- Will you set people a challenge for the week?
- Will there be a follow-up activity or event that people can get involved in? For example, if you do a prayer about caring for creation, could you plan a litter pick for people to get involved in?
- Will you use a song at the end?
- Could you end with a big question?
- All times of worship should be brought to an end with our Lasallian prayer and response (leader: St John Baptist De La Salle. response: pray for us. leader: live Jesus in our hearts. response: forever.)
- Who will close with the Sign of the Cross?





# LITURGICAL YEAR



The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:

**Advent**  
**Christmas**  
**Lent**  
**Paschal Triduum**  
**Easter**  
**Ordinary Time**

We tend to see five different liturgical colours throughout the year:

**Purple**  
**White**  
**Red**  
**Pink**  
**Green**

## **Advent – four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus’ birth**

Purple: When we use purple we do so to emphasize the “gloomy” and dark nature of the time within the liturgical year. We use this colour during Advent and Lent as they are seasons of penance and preparation for change in our lives.

## **Christmas – recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ**

White: We use white as the colour of heaven. Liturgically, white is used to celebrate big feast days! Feast days of the Lord are days like Christmas and Easter.

## **Lent – a six-week period of penance before Easter when we remember the journey of Jesus in the desert**

Purple: When we use purple we do so to emphasize the “gloomy” and dark nature of the time within the liturgical year. We use this colour during Advent and Lent as they are seasons of penance and preparation for change in our lives.

## **Sacred Paschal Triduum – the holiest “Three Days” of the Church’s year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus**

Red: within the Triduum we will see the colour red, this is used to represent fire and blood. Liturgically, it is used to celebrate the fire of the Holy Spirit and the blood of those who have died for their faith.

## **Easter – 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord’s resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit. Easter ends with Pentecost - the time that the Holy Spirit inspired Jesus’ Apostles.**

White: We use white as the colour of heaven. Liturgically, white is used to celebrate big feast days! Feast days of the Lord are days like Christmas and Easter.

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## **Ordinary Time – divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), this is the time that the Christian community listen to, learn from and act upon the teachings of Jesus.**

Green: Green is used throughout the year and as a colour is symbolic of growth and freshness. We use green to represent that our understanding of scripture, and our hope is always new, developing and fresh within our community.