

# A LITURGY HANDBOOK FOR SCHOOLS



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# 6 ELEMENTS OF LITURGY FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



## 1. SCRIPTURE

Always read something from the Bible.  
It is God speaking to us!  
It could be a story, a parable  
or a short verse or line.

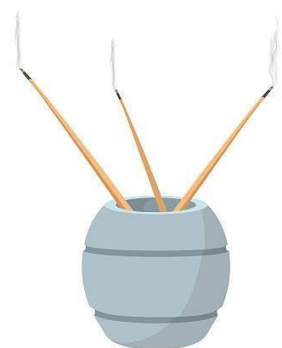
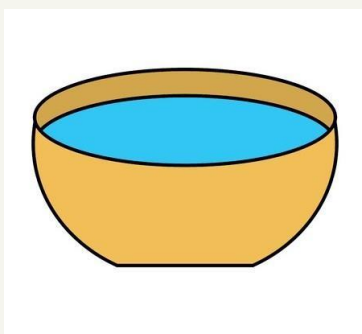


## 3. SPEAK to GOD

Pray! This is speaking to God.  
It might be a prayer you already know,  
one you have written, or one from a  
book.

## 5. SENSES

LISTEN to; prayer, scripture, music.  
SEE; candles and a symbol  
TOUCH; a feely cross, Holy Water  
SMELL; incense, candle  
These help us create a sacred space and  
become closer to God.



## 2. SYMBOL

We become closer to God through  
signs and symbols.

Have something to look at,  
display a colour,

and let everyone take part in symbolic action.

## 4. SILENCE

A little quiet time gives us the opportunity  
to speak to God quietly in the silence of  
our hearts.



## 6. SACRED SPACE

Create a special space for your Liturgy.  
Sit together, get rid of books and water  
bottles! Move furniture.

# CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Theme \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. SCRIPTURE (Listen)

## 2. SACRED SPACE (Including Gathering)

## 3. SYMBOL AND SYMBOLIC ACTION

## 4. SILENCE

## 5. SENSES

## 6. SPEAK TO GOD IN PRAYER (Including Going Forth)

How did it go?

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# A GLOSSARY of

## LITURGICAL TERMS

### FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

LITURGY: the participation of the people in the Work of God



#### **ALTAR**

The symbolic presence of Christ in the church building to which we bow. The main focus in the church, where the Liturgy of the Eucharist takes place.

#### **AMBO**

Where the Liturgy of the Word takes place. (May also be a lectern)



#### **ASSEMBLY**

The gathered people, members of the Mystical Body.

#### **BIBLE**

The Word of God. Sacred Scriptures.  
A collection of sacred books.  
Old Testament, 46 books  
New Testament 27 books

#### **BLESSING**

Asks God to look upon people or things. Traditionally, by a priest at Mass, but we can also bless each other.

#### **BOW**

An act of reverence. Simple bow of the head or a profound bow (hands to knees!)

#### **CANDLE**

Light is an important symbol. It represents Christ being the Light of the Word, conquering darkness.

#### **CANTOR**

A designated singer who leads the music.

#### **CELEBRATE**

To mark, honour, remember

#### **CELEBRANT**

The ordained deacon, priest, bishop who officiates at a liturgical celebration.

#### **CHALICE AND PATEN**

The cup and plate, vessels used to celebrate the Eucharist.



#### **CIBORIUM**

Similar to a chalice, usually with a lid, used for the consecrated hosts.

#### **COLLECT**

Prayer said by the priest just before the Liturgy of the Word. It 'collects' our petitions together.



## COLOUR (Liturgical)

Vestments and cloths reflect the time of the liturgical year.

Green: Ordinary time

Red: Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, feasts of apostles, evangelists and martyrs.

Purple: Lent and Advent

Rose; Mid Advent and Mid Lent Sundays.

White: Christmas, Easter, feasts of the Lord, Mary angels and saints who weren't martyrs.

Gold may be used on special occasions.

## CRUETS

Small vessels for the water and wine used at Mass.



## EUCHARIST

Greek for 'thanksgiving.' Celebration of the Eucharist as also known as Mass.

## FONT

The receptacle used for Baptism. Often wood or stone.



## GENUFLECT

A liturgical posture to show reverence by touching the ground with a single knee.

## HOMILY

Preaching during the Sunday Mass by the priest or deacon. It should be on scripture or text of the Mass.

## LECTIONARY

The sacred book containing scripture readings for Mass.

## LECTOR

A lay ministry. The person who reads scripture at Mass.



## LITANY

A form of prayer. A list of saints, titles or petitions with a single response.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first major part of the Mass. Old and New Testament readings, Psalm, Gospel reading, Homily, Universal Prayer (Bidding prayers) We believe Christ is present in his Word.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

second major part of the Mass. Bread and Wine are offered, consecrated to become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

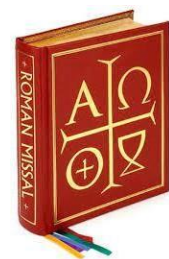
## LUNETTE

A small receptacle used for a single large consecrated host.



## MISSAL

The liturgical book containing the texts of the Mass.



## **MEDITATION**

A form of individual prayer/reflection focusing on a particular text or theme. Scripture, art, music, sacred writings can be the source of meditation.

## **MONSTRANCE**

A receptacle to contain the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.



## **PRAYER**

The way we communicate with God. Formal or informal. Prayers are of praise, thanksgiving, petition(asking) and reconciliation (being sorry)

## **PRESIDER**

The person who leads a liturgical service. The priest or deacon in a formal liturgy.

## **PROCLAIM**

The Word of God isn't merely read. It is proclaimed. God speaks to us here and now!

## **PYX**

A small container used to take Communion to the sick and housebound.



## **REFLECTION**

To pray quietly and ponder a given theme.

## **RITUAL**

Liturgy is Ritual. It is a tradition passed on. It is repeated. It allows us to become familiar and immerse ourselves in it.

## **SACRAMENT**

An outward sign of an inward reality. By celebrating the 7 Sacraments we receive grace from God and become more like Him. The Sacrament perpetuates God's

saving work, making it effective throughout the ages.

## **SACRED SPACE**

Creating a sacred space in school allows the liturgy to be more effective. The combination of space, light, sign, symbol, music, scripture and silence work together to make God tangible.

## **SCRIPTURE**

The sacred Word of God found in the Bible.

## **SIGN OF PEACE**

A way of signifying peace with the people near us. A powerful symbolic action.

## **SILENCE**

An integral part of liturgy. It needs to be taught and practiced. Through silence, we can speak to God, reflect and listen.

## **TABERNACLE**

Usually behind the altar, the place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept for taking Communion to the sick and for private prayer. A large host is usually kept in a **LUNETTE** and can be places in a **MONSTRANCE** for **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**.



## **WORSHIP**

The homage given to God acknowledging His greatness. It can be a public or private act.

# SIGNS AND SYMBOLS



Postures and gestures

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**Bread and Wine**

**Water**

**Oil**

**Light(candle)**

Altar

Alpha and Omega

Anointing

Ashes

Blessing

Bowing

Cross

Dove

Flowers

Fire

Genuflecting

Holy water

Incense

Kiss

Laying of hands

Light, dark

Mountain

Music

Paintings

Prostrating

Rosary beads

Silence

Sitting

Standing

Space

Sign of peace

Sign of the Cross

Stained glass

Stations of the Cross

Statues

Vestments

Wheat

Washing feet

Always include:

A passage of scripture  
**THE WORD OF GOD**

It might be a story or just one line!

- Remember...liturgy just happens!
- It's not a lesson or an assembly.
- Let everything speak for itself!
- Prepare and explain!

Choose a line from a Psalm  
For example:

A pure heart create for me O God  
Help me to be kind  
A pure heart create for me O God  
Help me to be friendly  
A pure heart create for me O God  
Help me to be thoughtful  
A pure heart create for me O God  
Help me to be caring  
A pure heart create for me O God

YouTube: great resources. Search for meditations, animated Bible stories, film clips.

Pass a feely cross around:

Thank you God for... Please bless...

Look after...

Or repeat a short phrase 3 times:

I love you Jesus x3

Thank you God for my friends x3

Look after me today x3

SILENCE

Teach it! Practice it! Don't presume it will just happen!

## IDEAS FOR CLASSROOM PRAYER



Prayer focus resources

Candle

Bible

Cloths (green, red, purple, blue, white or gold)

Statue

Picture or statue of your school patron

Icon

Rosary beads

Feely cross

Incense or Diffuser sticks

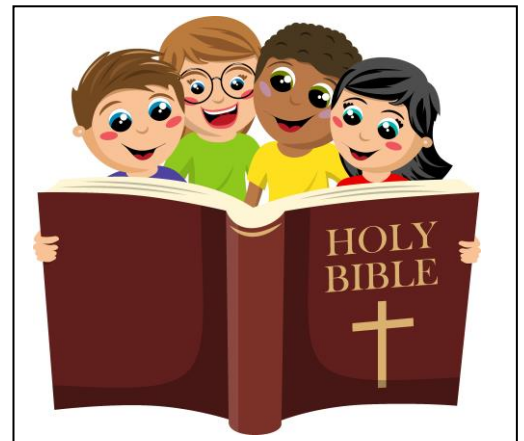
Small basket

Age appropriate prayer book

Bell

Blank book for pupils own prayers

Bowl for water



We pray for...the sick

those who are lonely

peace

That...

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer

Most importantly...JOIN IN!

Don't be a spectator!

As role models, we have something wonderful to share.

Our pupils value and appreciate this.





## Twelve well known Bible stories

1. The Lost Sheep  
When we do wrong, we turn away from God. But he wants us to come back to him.
2. Zacchaeus  
God loves sinners. He would like them to be sorry and make good what they have done.
3. The man who came in through the roof God can do anything!
4. Jesus feeds the 5000  
He does wonderful things. He really cares for us!
5. The Good Samaritan  
You should put aside your differences and help anyone in need.
6. Jesus heals Blind Bartimaeus God rewards true faith in Him.
7. The Prodigal Son  
We can all be forgiven, whatever we have done. God celebrates when we seek forgiveness.
8. Jairus' Daughter Shows the power of God.
9. The Widow's offering  
Shows her humble love for the Lord and teaches us the true meaning of giving.
10. The Mustard Seed How the kingdom of heaven will grow.
11. Jesus goes fishing Always trust in the power of Jesus.
12. The ten lepers It's important to say 'Thank you'

# 20 Themes for Class Celebrations of the Word



<u>1. Love each other</u>	Isaiah 58:3-8	1 Thessalonians 5:12-17
<u>2. Help us to share</u>	Acts 2 :44-47	Luke 3:10-11
<u>3. Being Sorry</u>	Matthew 3:2-6	Joel 2:12-13
<u>4. Working hard</u>	Romans 12:8, 10-13	Luke 19:12-22
<u>5. Helping others</u>	Isaiah 58;3,4,7,8	Romans 8:16-20
<u>6. Forgiveness</u>	Colossians 3:12-13	Luke 17:3-4
<u>7. Talents</u>	Romans 12 :6-8	Psalms 150:2-6
<u>8. Trust in God</u>	Luke 12:6-7	Luke 12:27-28
<u>9. Being good followers</u>	Philippians 3:8-10	Psalms 14; 2-3
<u>10. Saying 'thank you.'</u>	Colossians 3:16-17	Luke 17:11-19
<u>11. Don't argue</u>	Isaiah 58;9-11	Mark 9:33-35
<u>12. Friends with God</u>	Titus 3:4-7	Titus 15:15-17
<u>13. Thanks for Creation</u>	John 4:35-36	Genesis 1:1-3
<u>14.. Care for Creation</u>	Mark 4:26-28	Mark:4:30-33
<u>15. The poor</u>	Isaiah 58;3-8	Psalms 71:12-14
<u>16. For Peace</u>	Romans 12:10,13,18	John 14:27
<u>17. Those who are sick</u>	Jeremiah 30:10-17	Mark 2:1-6,11,12
<u>18. Children in need</u>	Mark 5:22-24, 35-43	Mark 10:13-16
<u>19. The elderly</u>	Luke 2: 23	John 19:25-27
<u>20. Those who have died</u>	1 Thessalonians 4:13,14,17	Mark 9:33-35

SIMPLE  
'CIRCLE TIME'  
PRAYERS



PRAYERS TO SAY 3 TIMES

Jesus I love you  
Jesus watch over me  
Jesus I am sorry  
Jesus you are special  
Jesus be with us today  
Loving God thank you for  
making me  
Loving God please bless me  
Father you are wonderful  
Father look after me  
Hail Mary, full of grace  
Holy Family pray for us  
Loving Lord watch over us  
Loving Lord be with us

FEELY CROSS PRAYERS

Jesus I am sorry for...  
Jesus show me the way to...  
Jesus I'd like to tell you...  
Jesus you are...  
Loving Lord please look after...  
Loving God thank you for...  
Loving God you are wonderful  
because...  
Heavenly Father please bless...  
Father please watch  
over...  
Heavenly Father you are ...  
Loving Lord help me to...  
Loving Father please...  
Father in Heaven please look after...

# Ways to start a prayer



Loving...God/Father/Lord

Almighty...  
All powerful  
Compassionate  
Creator  
Divine  
Everlasting  
Eternal  
Faithful  
Forgiving  
Heavenly  
Healing  
Holy  
Kind  
Merciful  
Saving  
Understanding

Eg.  
Almighty and Everlasting God  
*Merciful Lord*  
*Loving Father*

God/Father/Lord of all...

Creation  
Compassion  
Comfort  
Consolation  
The Earth  
Forgiveness  
Healing  
Justice  
Light  
Mercy  
Might  
Power  
Refuge  
Peace  
Trust  
Wisdom

Eg.  
God of all compassion  
Lord of all light  
Father of all Creation

If the prayer is directed to the Father: • **Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...**

If it is directed to the Father, but the Son is mentioned at the end: • **Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...**

If it is directed to the Son: • **Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...**



# MEDITATION IN CLASS



## 1. NATURE MEDITATION

Reflect on the wonders of God's creation.

## 2. VIDEO MEDITATION

Allow images and sounds to take you closer to God.

## 3. IMAGINATIVE PRAYER

Put yourself in the scene. Be close to Jesus!

## 4. DAILY EXAMEN

Take a couple of minutes at the end of the day...

## 5. ART MEDITATION

Colour an icon and listen to a passage of Scripture. What words or phrases do you notice! What is God saying to you?

## 6. SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION

Reflect on a short passage from the Bible. Take your time and share your thoughts with God.

## 7. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At each Station, think about what Jesus has done for us.

## 8. LECTIO DIVINA

Listen to the Word of God 2 or 3 times. What do you notice?  
What is God saying to you?

## 9. THE ROSARY

Pray a decade of the Rosary and think about Jesus' life and what message He might be giving to you!





# OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLASS PRAYER IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTORY



## **EYFS**

The words and actions of the sign of the cross:

‘In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen’.

Simple ‘circle time’ prayers, repeated 3 times:

God made me.  
God loves me.  
God loves everyone.  
God made the wonderful world.  
God is love.  
Jesus look after me.  
Look after God’s world.  
I am sorry Jesus.

Key religious words and phrases from Scripture, hymns, and prayers.

Listen attentively and respond to Bible and religious stories

Express themselves when responding to songs and hymns they have listened to and learned.

Say sorry.

Shake hands to share peace with their friends.

Repeat and enjoy phrases from Scripture, including psalms and hymns.

Sing and perform a range of rhymes, songs, and new and traditional hymns

## **YEAR 1**

Reflect the Our Father and the opening words of the Creed

Hear and join in Hail Mary

Some simple words, actions, and symbols from the Ash Wednesday liturgy and the Palm Sunday liturgy.

The words of the ‘Glory Be’ prayer.

An age-appropriate hymn referencing the Holy Spirit.

## **YEAR 2**

Psalms are prayers of praise to God

Some words of Mary’s prayer, the Magnificat

How water is used as a symbol of a new start in the Sacrament of Baptism.

How Catholics say sorry to God in prayers:

Act of Sorrow (Contrition)

Asking for forgiveness in the ‘Our Father’

A simple Examen or an act of sorrow and in the Penitential rite, for example, the Kyrie Eleison (Lord have Mercy).

Some simple words, actions, and symbols of the Easter Vigil, focusing on light and water.

Christians pray to the Holy Spirit for help (‘Come Holy Spirit’).

### **YEAR 3**

Extracts from a psalm of Creation.

How the praise of Creation is expressed in the prayer and Liturgy of the Church

Eg sFrancis’s Canticle of the Creatures; the Offertory prayers; a Prayer for our Earth in Laudato Si’).

How Catholics use some signs, actions, prayers, and symbols to celebrate Mass, e.g., the sign of the cross, bells, the Kyrie Eleison prayer, etc.

Hear some of the responses Catholics say at Mass, focusing on the Liturgy of the Word.

How Advent hymns celebrate Jesus as the coming Messiah (e.g., O Little town of Bethlehem; Long ago prophets knew; O come, divine Messiah; O come, O come Emmanuel).

Our Father

Some prayers and responses Catholics say during Mass.

Some prayers and responses Catholics sing during the Eucharistic Prayer.

Some ways people celebrate their first Eucharist (First Holy Communion).

Sign of the Cross

### **YEAR 4**

Age-appropriate extracts from prayers of faith in God from the Catholic tradition. (For example, Ps 40:1, the St Therese prayer, ‘May today there be peace within’, St John Henry Newman’s ‘Mission of my Life’, Bl Charles de Foucauld’s ‘Prayer of Abandonment.’)

‘He will come again in glory’ from the Nicene Creed.

The Apostles Creed

Some Marian prayers or hymns, e.g., Hail Mary, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Magnificat, Ave Maria.

### **YEAR 5**

Some words of Psalm 23 to speak or sing.

O Antiphons

O come O come Emmanuel

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Prayers of Petition

Our Father

Virtues of Faith, hope and love

- What the ashes on Ash Wednesday symbolise.
- A simple examen and/or act of contrition.
- The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

‘Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful’ prayer.

### **YEAR 6**

Nicene Creed

Magnificat

Stations of the Cross

Act of Faith. Hope and



# A PROGRESSION OF CLASS LITURGIES

## **EYFS**

Listen to scripture  
Take part in circle prayer with help  
Participate in short periods of silence

- *As soon as pupils are able, allow them to prepare, and pray independently, assisting only where needed.*

## **YEAR 1**

Lay out altar with help  
Listen to scripture  
Take part in circle prayer with help  
Participate in short periods of silence.

## **YEAR 2**

Lay out altar  
Help select and read scripture  
Make up own circle prayer  
Increasing comfort with periods of silence

## **YEAR 3**

Lay out altar with some guidance.  
Select theme for scripture.  
Make own circle prayer and use symbols.  
Spend time in silence.

## **YEAR 4**

Set up altar independently  
Prepare reading and psalm (help may be given)  
Improvise circle prayer.  
Select prayers for use  
Using ICT, select images to be used for reflection.

## **YEAR 5/6**

Set up altar independently, being increasingly creative.  
Select reading and prayers from a variety of sources (Bible, books, workbooks, web etc.)  
Compose prayers in different styles to match given needs.  
Match prayers and readings with a given theme.  
Prayers become increasingly detailed in what they are asking for, the reasons why, and what they want the outcome to be.  
Create ICT aids (eg powerpoints/photostory)  
Search for visual aids( eg from a bank of Youtube videos / Google image/CADOD resources)  
Invent own symbolic actions.  
Spend increasing amounts of time in silence.