

Prayer life at St Monica's Catholic Primary School



Success for all within a Christ-Centred Community

Here at St Monica's Catholic Primary School, Prayer and liturgy plays a fundamental part of daily school life and enables us all to join together as one in prayer and worship.

"Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. You will seek me and find me because you will seek me with all of your heart."

Jeremiah 29: 12-14

Growing Closer to God

In its simplest form, prayer is defined as "talking to God." It is our own personal time where we open our hearts to our Heavenly Father and bring everything in our head and hearts to him. Through the Apostle Paul, God asked us to pray.

"Finally, our brothers and sisters, pray for us, that the Lord's message may continue to spread rapidly and be received with honour"

Thessalonians 3: 1-2

Prayer and liturgy can be a powerful force for change in our lives, and the importance of doing it on a daily basis is instilled in our children.

Communication is the foundation for success in any relationship. When we communicate openly and freely with each other, we get to know each other as individuals. This principle also applies to our relationship with God. By talking to God, we can learn more about who He is and what plan He has for us.

Prayer Has a Purpose

It is important that our children understand that there is a purpose to prayer. Jesus frequently prayed during His life on Earth. He had a reason for doing so. Our prayers are something that God deeply desires. Children are encouraged to pray in different ways according to their age and personal development. The most important aspect of prayer for children is that they realise it is their way of communicating with God and is first and foremost a personal occasion.

Different ways our children pray

Children are introduced to a variety of different ways of praying:

- ❖ Quiet reflection / meditation
- ❖ Praying together
- ❖ Writing our own prayers
- ❖ Prayers through music
- ❖ Learning traditional Catholic prayers

Our St Monica's School Prayer

Dear St. Monica,

We pray for your love and encouragement as we start our new day. At school, during our work and play help us to never give up just as you never did. Help us to show patience and kindness and guide us to always do our best in every situation. We will strive to love one another and know that God always hears our prayers.

Amen.

Classroom Prayers

Each day prayer takes place in our classrooms, We have our morning prayer, lunchtime prayers and hometime prayer.

Morning Prayer	Lunchtime Prayer	Hometime Prayer
Oh my God I give to you, all that I think or say or do, all my work and all	Bless us oh God as we sit together, bless the food we eat today, bless	At the end of the day we sit and say thank you God for our work and our

my happy play I will give to you today. Amen.	the hands that make the food, bless us oh God. Amen.	play. We've tried to be good, we know that we should. This is our prayer at the end of the day. Amen.
---	--	---

[Hymn Practice](#)

Each Key Stage gathers together to sing songs of praise to God and practise hymns and songs that we use for our collective worship and for Mass.

[Child Led Prayer and liturgy](#)

Each week, different children in each class prepare and lead their class in worship. In Key Stage One the children are guided by adults to prepare for this. In Key Stage Two the children independently plan their own worship.

[Teacher Led Prayer and liturgy](#)

Teachers plan weekly worships for their class to allow time for reflection and prayer based on a religious theme.

[Celebration Prayer and liturgy Worship](#)

Each Friday, our children come together for a time of collective worship led by our Assistant Head. We also celebrate the achievements of the school that week. We end the week together by thanking God for all He has helped us to achieve that week.

[Masses](#)

Throughout the year, our entire school community will attend St Monica's Church to celebrate masses with our Parish Priest Father Ged and our Parish community. Children help to prepare and lead the Mass through scripture readings, prayers and bringing up the gifts during offertory. On different occasions parents and guardians are invited to join us for Mass.

[Liturgies](#)

Throughout the year, to mark important events in the Church's liturgical year, we hold special Liturgies.

