



**St. Anselm's College**  
*Edmund Rice Academy Trust*

# Prayer and Liturgy Policy

## Version 2.1

### **Mission Statement:**

Our Catholic Community offers a learning environment for us to develop our God given talents and to recognize Christ amongst us. We respect the dignity of God's creation and, inspired by Gospel values, seek to serve one another.

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| <b>Document Owner:</b>            | <b>Headteacher</b>                         |
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## Rationale:

***"The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first, our own step is always a response"***

(The Catechism of the Catholic Church)

A daily act of prayer is not merely a statutory requirement but in St. Anselm's College is an integral element of the spiritual and prayer life of our community. Pupils are not ***"looking for text-book prayer, nor sentimentality, but for genuine conviction and evidence of someone else embarked on a spiritual journey and able to some extent, to articulate it"***.

(Where Two or Three are gathered in my name, *Cope et al*)

Prayer and liturgy lie at the heart of the Christian life. It is a living and personal relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit. Within St. Anselm's we root our prayer in the desire to live and teach in the light of the gospel.

***"To ensure that the Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre of a Catholic school, prayer and liturgy must be at the heart of its community life"***

(To love You more dearly – The Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2023)

## Aims:

### **Prayer and Liturgy within St Anselm's offers opportunities to:**

- consider and celebrate the values of the Gospel
- participate in Celebrations of the word, Liturgy, prayer, reflection and meditation
- experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community
- foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- explore social, moral and spiritual values

## PRINCIPLES

### **Acts of Prayer should be:**

- related to the age, ability and background of pupils
- designed to actively engage pupils, and elicit a response and allow for silent reflection
- resourced and planned
- memorable and enjoyable
- a sense of occasion
- flexible and able to respond to special occasions

## **Liturgy:**

Mass will be celebrated at appropriate Liturgical times and when possible weekly. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated during Advent and Lent.

## **CO-ORDINATION**

The Head of Year co-ordinates a rota for the delivery of prayer within their year group using a thematic approach for each week of the school year. Resources for this are available from the Religious Education Faculty. Prayer should also take the opportunity to link to Catholic Social Teaching and The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice.

## **ORGANISATION**

### **Celebration of the Word/Assemblies:**

Each year group will have one year group assembly and one Key Stage Assembly (Celebration of the Word) over the two-week timetable cycle. In each of these assemblies prayer is led by the Head teacher, Head of Year, Form Tutor, a senior member of staff or visitor. Prayer may also be led by the pupils under the guidance of a member of staff. Assembly should also take the opportunity to link to Catholic Social Teaching and The Eight Essentials of Edmund Rice.

There is a clear distinction between time spent on the spiritual and business aspects of the assembly.

**Tutor Group Prayer** - Form Tutors lead a daily act of prayer during morning registration in their form rooms based on the theme for the week. This may also be led by pupils in the form.

## **STRATEGIES**

It should be noted that there will be times when the weekly theme is inappropriate – due to current events such as in times of disaster or tragedy; these should be explored in prayer as they arise.

### **Pupil Involvement**

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of prayer both in assemblies and in form groups.

### **Visiting Speakers**

Visiting speakers form an important, if occasional, part of the prayer life of the College. They can offer a breadth and variety of prayer experiences for pupils.

### **Staff Development**

Training for staff will take place where appropriate for staff development. This will typically include refresher training on 'How to deliver effective Form time Prayer', 'The role of the Form Teacher' and whole staff training on 'Our distinctive Ethos and being an ER school'. All new staff also take part in an induction programme which addresses our Ethos, prayer life and being part of a Catholic School. All new staff also attend an ER Induction Day at the ER office.

### **To love You more dearly**

St Anselm's Catholic College adheres to the Prayer and Liturgy Directory 2023

## **CONCLUSION**

Prayer and liturgy are central to the Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of prayer and liturgy that is relevant, appropriate and life-giving. In so doing we would strive as a community to recognise "*the faithful God's initiative of love*" and to encourage and enable a true and genuine response.

## **St Anselm's College 2025-2026 Weekly Prayer Themes**

### **Autumn term 1**

Week 1: New Beginnings, Concern for the Whole Person  
Week 2: Promoting the Spiritual, Canonization of St. Carlo Acutis  
Week 3: Evangelizing the Modern World, Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
Week 4: Education for Justice, Feast of St. Mathew, International Day of Peace  
Week 5: Compassion for Those in Need, St. Vincent de Paul  
Week 6: Education as a Christian Calling, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Wilfred  
Week 7: Building a Christian Community, Diocesan Year of Jubilee Icon

### **Autumn term 2**

Week 1: Promting the Spiritual, All Saints & All Souls  
Week 2: Building a Christian Community, Remembrance  
Week 3: Evangelizing the Modern World, World Day of Prayer for the Poor  
Week 4: Education for Justice, Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Week 5: Evangelizing the Modern World, Advent Begins; St. Mathew, Nicholas  
Week 6: Education as a Christian Calling, Advent, the Immaculate Conception  
Week 7: Striving for Excellence, Gaudete Sunday, Chrismatide

### **Spring term 1**

Week 1: Building a Christian Community, The Epiphany, End of the Year of Jubilee  
Week 2: Promoting the Spiritual, The Baptism of The Lord  
Week 3: Concern for the Whole Person, Christian Unity  
Week 4: Education as a Christian Calling, Holocaust Remembrance, St. John Bosco  
Week 5: Education for Justice, Presentation of the Lord, St. John Bosco  
Week 6: Evangelizing the Modern World, St Valentine, Our Lady of Lourdes

### **Spring term 2**

Week 1: Striving for Excellence, Ash Wednesday  
Week 2: Promoting the Spiritual, St. David, Lent  
Week 3: Concern for the Whole Person, Lent  
Week 4: Compassion for those in Need, St. Patrick & St. Joseph, Mother's Day, Laetare  
Week 5: Evangelizing the Modern World, St. Oscar Romero, The Annunciation, Eastertide

**Summer term 1**

Week 1: Promoting the Spiritual

Week 2: Building a Christian Community, St. Anselm, St. George

Week 3: Evangelizing the Modern World, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Joseph the Worker

Week 4: Education as a Christian Calling, Blessed Edmund Rice, The Ascension

Week 5: Promoting the Spiritual, Vocations Sunday

Week 6: Evangelizing the Modern World, Our Lady Help of Christians

**Summer term 2**

Week 1: Building a Christian Community, Most Holy Trinity

Week 2: Concern for the Holy Person, Corpus Christi

Week 3: Education as a Christian Calling, Father's Day

Week 4: Education of Justice, St Peter & St Paul

Week 5: Striving for Excellence

Week 6: Evangelizing the Modern World

Week 7: Promoting the Spiritual, End of the Year