



All Hallows Catholic College

## **Prayer & Liturgy Policy 2025**

<b>Policy Owner</b>	Mrs M Garvey
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*Aspire not to have more but to be more.*

Saint Oscar Romero

+ Honourable Purpose + Respect + Compassion + Cooperation  
+ Stewardship +

## All Hallows Catholic College Prayer and Liturgy Policy

*"Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them"* Matthew 18:20

At All Hallows Catholic College we believe Our Lord Jesus Christ should be at the centre of everything we do.

Prayer and Liturgy at All Hallows Catholic College provides time and space for us give honour to God and forms the spiritual and ethical life of pupils and staff alike.

We believe there should be regular opportunities for members of our College community to join together to experience Liturgy, Liturgical Prayer and Daily Prayer which reflects the traditions, disciplines and norms of the Church. We believe it is important to provide time and space for both Sacramental celebrations, to celebrate the Word of God, community prayer and personal reflection.

College recognises that our community is made up of members who

- Form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom college may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds – or none

Therefore, it is essential that we help our staff and students understand the purpose and language of Prayer and Liturgy. Through opportunity for prayer and liturgy we provide authentic opportunities where our students and staff can

- Take time out to 'wonder at', 'reflect on' and 'respond to the Word of God
- Develop their own spirituality and ways to listen and communicate with God
- Grow in Liturgical understanding
- Experience the liturgical traditions and prayers of the Church
- Recognise key liturgical themes throughout the year
- Reflect on what it means to be human created Imago Dei
- Develop a sense of belonging and community
- Share our common values
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Explore and respond to the needs of others
- Demonstrate our values of Respect and Cooperation when we allow one another the time and space for prayer
- Develop a confidence in leading prayer

## Daily Prayer

Each morning students along with their Form Tutors, with the support of the school Chaplain, have an opportunity to pray together. Prayers include:

- Our College Morning Offering
- Prayers from the Catholic tradition
- A reflection on the Sunday Gospel,
- Prayer themes which reflect on global/local events and pray for those affected. Which encourage a sense of empathy and global responsibility for our neighbours.
- Form Groups are encouraged to take ownership of form time prayer by developing a prayer space on which to add their own personal prayer intentions.

At the close of the College Day students and their class teacher are invited to give thanks to God for the blessings they have received by sharing our end of day prayer. The College close of day prayer can be replaced with MFL prayers in the target language and other appropriate prayer intentions. On Wednesday, the close of day prayer is substituted for Wellbeing Wednesday Reflection. All prayers end with a personal call to action.

Our daily prayers are shared with our families in our weekly newsletter.

Through the provision of calendared prayer experiences, meditations, prayer stations, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross students have the opportunity to experience prayer in all its forms.

## Staff Prayer

In the same way it is important that we provide time and space for our staff to pray.

- Staff meetings/briefings begin with a prayer or reflection.
- During Advent and Lent there are opportunities for whole staff and departmental led reflections in the chapel/hall.

The Chapel is open for private prayer.

## Assemblies (Celebration of the Word of God)

At All Hallows College, assembling students to pray as a year group is an integral part of our daily college life and central to the experience students and staff prepare and lead Assemblies. Our Assemblies are specifically religious in nature and distinct from our business meetings. They follow the same liturgical form of:

- **Gather to**
- **Listen to the Word of God,**

- **Reflect** on its meaning for us today and
- **Respond** personally and as a faith community.

Assemblies follow a calendar of themes that reflect the liturgical year, global events, our core values, our civic/moral and theological virtues e.g., charity or another aspect of C S T e.g., Peace /Justice /Human Dignity and our British Values. Assemblies often support PSHE through the impact the Gospel has on social and moral issues e.g., the environment and discrimination. They also provide opportunity to celebrate achievement, give recognition to the God given gifts and talents of our students and reinforce positive attitudes.

#### **Assembly time: 08.55 - 9.15**

- Monday Year 7
- Tuesday Year 8
- Wednesday Year 9
- Thursday Year 10
- Friday Year 11/12/13

The first Assembly of each term is delivered by the College Principal. Preparation and leadership of our Liturgical Prayer is the responsibility of all members of our student and teaching community. Form Tutor groups, subject teachers, members of the SLT, Year Learning Leaders, the Lay Chaplain and student groups prepare and lead prayer according to a calendared rota.

*During any period of where we cannot gather physically in the Hall, these are recorded and shared during Form time by the Form Tutor/Year Leader.*

The theme of our Assemblies is shared with our families and wider community through our weekly newsletter. Where assemblies are recorded, these are made available to our families through a link in our weekly newsletter. Families are encouraged to discuss these with their children.

Throughout the year there are calendared opportunities for students and to attend the chapel or gather together in the College Hall to share a variety of liturgies for All Souls, Remembrance, Advent, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Reconciliation and end of year celebrations.

The contribution of the Liturgical Choir, Dance and Performing Arts groups help our students and staff experience the rich variety of prayer and encourage creativity and student leadership.

## **Celebrating the Sacraments**

### **The Mass**

For many of our students and staff, All Hallows provides their first and often only experience of church. Many have no experience of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It is therefore important that all students and staff develop an understanding of the importance and rich symbolism of the Mass, and for staff to develop a confidence to help students prepare students for Mass.

- The first Mass for Year 7 takes the form of an Instructional Mass, whereby students will be given responsibility to develop an understanding of each stage of the Mass in order that they can prepare the Mass and share their understanding with their peers.
- As part of the retreat experiences, students have the opportunity to prepare and contribute to the Mass.
- Year 11 and 13 will continue to celebrate their end of year with a Mass or Liturgy in College.
- At the start of Advent, Lent and Pentecost students and staff visit the parishes of St Alban's, St Gregory's and St Paul's to lead the liturgical music, dance and post communion reflections.
- Students and staff celebrate the Diocesan Family of schools Mass at the end of the Academic Year
- Staff and governors celebrate the start and end of the academic year with an Instructional Mass.
- All students have the opportunity to attend a Voluntary Mass in the College chapel every 3-4 weeks depending on availability of our priests.

### **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered as part of our Liturgies during Advent and Lent and as part of our residential Retreats to Alton Castle and Soli House. During the residential retreats student also have the opportunity to experience Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **Retreat Experiences**

Residential and Day retreats offer unique and valuable opportunities to support student and staff prayer and liturgical experiences.

The weekly Chaplaincy report in the Newsletter inform parents, governors, and students when Prayer and Liturgies have taken place.

## Wider Links

The College will continue to

- support and encourage participation in opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments, prayer and witness of faith offered by the parishes.
- Join with our Diocesan schools through Prayer, reflection, and Masses as part of Mini DASH
- Continue to seek opportunities to work with AHLC schools to share prayer opportunities.

## Monitoring

The College Prayer and Liturgical Life is monitored through

- Calendared Learning walks by members of SLT/YLL
- Weekly Form visits by our Lay Chaplain
- Deputy Principal and other SLT presence at Assemblies/Liturgies
- Governors submit a ROV following attendance at Assemblies.
- Student Voice including the Chaplaincy Teams who QA and advise on the use of Prayer Stations
- Staff Performance Review

The College recognises right of withdrawal by Sixth Form Students/Parents from collective worship. In line with the CES ["Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship."](#) If such a request is made, we would invite an open discussion with the family/student to understand the grounds for withdrawal and discuss the practical implications of withdrawal.

The College will continue to review provision in line with the 'Prayer and Liturgy Directory'.