



Collective Worship

At St Joseph's we believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none; and
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement, it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The foundations for our life of prayer and worship are built on John 10:10 – 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'. Prayer, in all its expressions, is thus a means of communicating with and listening to the Divine in our lives and it is central to our mission as a Catholic school.

All Liturgical Acts of Worship in St Joseph's will:

- give glory and honour to God;
- be a quality activity, planned and organised, and suitable to the age, social and religious development of the pupils;
- give pupils a positive liturgical experience. We will achieve this by making the liturgy relevant to the lives of the pupils and involve them through words, music, drama, silence, reflection, listening and sharing; and
- be examples of good practice, which should enable pupils and students to develop skills so that they can organise and lead worship.

"The community of a Catholic school will generally be inclusive of people who are not Catholics or Christians. This context provides Catholic schools with a unique opportunity to present, in an authentic way, our tradition of Catholic prayer and liturgy, while at the same time providing a welcoming environment for all pupils and staff. In order to respond to this most fruitfully, we are called to understand the tradition of the Catholic faith and maintain an approach that respects the integrity of all members of the school community." (To love you more dearly, Prayer and Liturgy Directory, 2023, p. 6).