

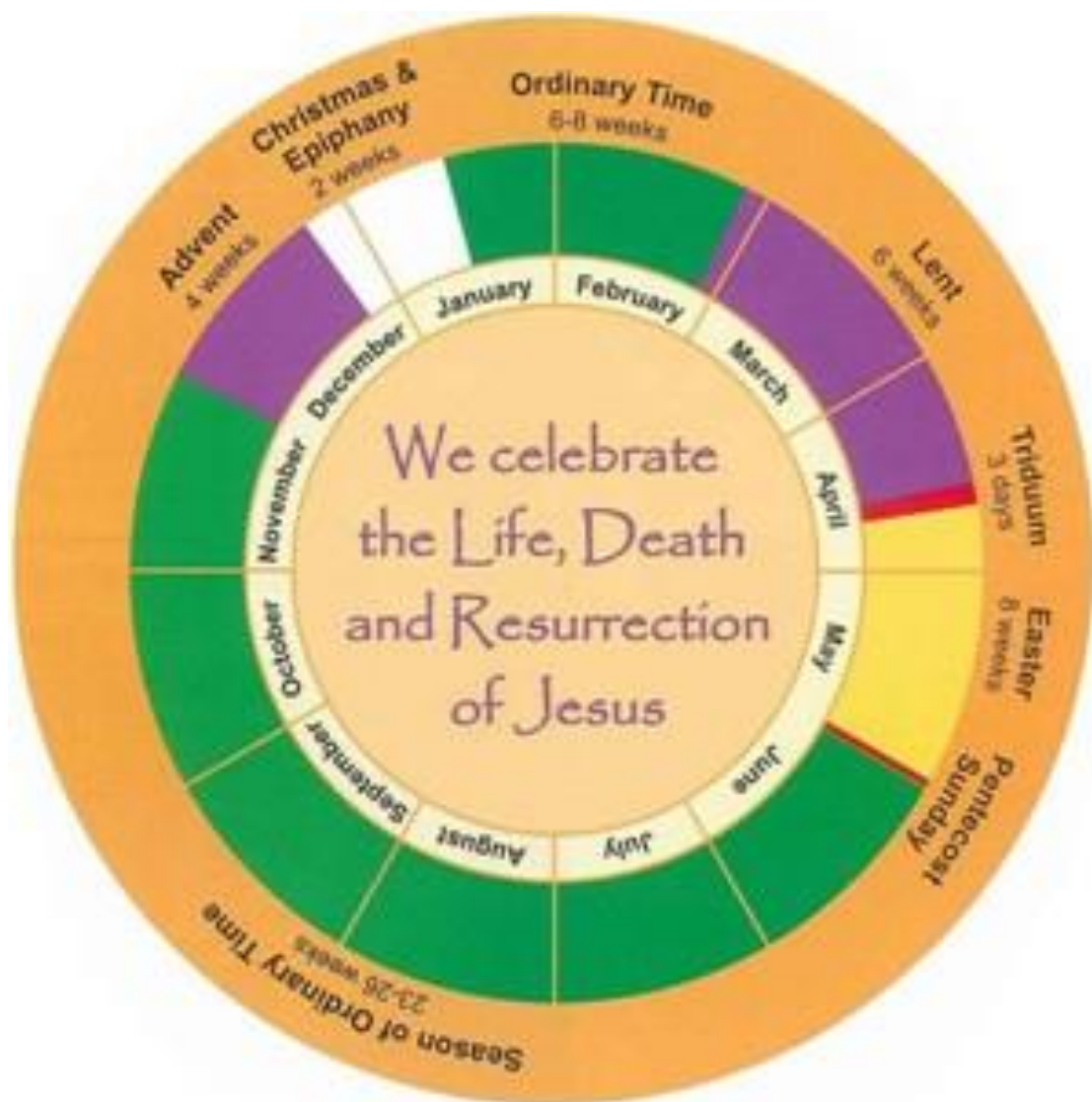


St. Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



PRAYER BOOK

The Liturgical Year



Advent

Begins four Sundays prior to Christmas. Includes all days until Christmas (or Christmas Eve). The length varies according to date of first Sunday.

The beginning of the Christian year.

Themes: Waiting; Expectation; Hope; Yearning; Our need for a Saviour.

The liturgical colours of Advent are Purple and Rose, with Rose being used only on the third Sunday of Advent.

Christmas

December 25th through January 5, a twelve-day season.

Many Christians begin celebrating Christmas on Christmas Eve. Of course most people think of Christmas as a day, not a season.

Themes: Celebration of the Incarnation of the Word of God; Salvation; Joy; Kingdom; Peace; Giving.

The liturgical colour of Christmas is white.

Epiphany

January 6, the day after the season of Christmas.

Themes: Some traditions emphasise the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) and the universal import of salvation in Christ. Other traditions focus on the baptism of Jesus.

Ordinary Time

When: Times during the year when there is not a special day or season.

Ordinary time begins the day after Epiphany and extends until the day before Lent.

Ordinary time begins again after Pentecost, extending until the day before Advent.

Themes: Ordinary time is not "plain, boring time," but rather "counted" time. Different traditions include many celebrations during ordinary time, such as Trinity Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, All Saints Day, and so forth. The themes of ordinary time include the basic elements of the Christian life.

The liturgical colour of Ordinary Time is green; however, as in all seasons, other appropriate colours are worn on particular feast days. (*For example, blue is typically worn for Marian feast days.*)

Lent

Forty weekdays prior to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday.

The precise dates vary according to the date of Easter, which can range from March 22 to April 25. The six Sundays during the season of Lent are not counted in the forty days.

Themes: Penitence; Morality; Human Limitations; Need for a Saviour; Self-Denial; Preparation for Good Friday and Easter.

Holy Week

The last seven days of Lent, prior to Easter. Holy Week includes: Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Themes: The last week of Jesus' life; The death of Jesus and its meaning; Love for one another (Maundy Thursday). Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus as king, but leads into a solemn preparation for remembrance of his death.

The liturgical colours of Lent are violet or purple. On Palm Sunday and on Good Friday (which has no Mass but a service remembering Christ's passion) the colour is red. White or violet is

worn on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday (once again, there is no Mass but there are other services on Holy Saturday).

Easter

A fifty-day season of the year, beginning on the evening before Easter and continuing for seven Sundays until Pentecost. Includes Ascension Day. Easter Sunday or Resurrection Day is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox (March 21).

Themes: Salvation; Victory; New life; Joy; Christ reigns.

The liturgical colours of Easter are white, for most days.

Pentecost

The seventh Sunday after Easter.

Themes: The outpouring of the Holy Spirit; The birth of the church; Power for service in the church and the world; The inclusion of all of God's people in ministry. "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word for fifty, from the phrase "fiftieth day [after Easter]." In some traditions it is called Whitsunday (White Sunday), perhaps owing to the white garments of those baptised on this Sunday.

The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red.

Ordinary Time (again)

From the day after Pentecost through the day before Advent, about five months.

The liturgical colour of Ordinary Time is green; however, as in all seasons, other appropriate colours are worn on particular feast days.

Prayers



A Short School Prayer



Almighty God
We give you our school.
We give you all the teachers and staff who work here,
We give you all the children who study here.
We pray our school will be place of great discovery, adventure and
creativity.
May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,
A place where every one is respected and all are deeply valued.
We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

School Prayer

Dear Father,
We pray our school will be filled with love
We pray our learning will be full of truth
We pray our playground will be full of joy
We pray our friendships will be full of forgiveness

We pray our teachers will be full of wisdom
We pray our community will be full of hope
May we run with your love
Build on your truth
Play with your joy
Share your forgiveness
Rest in your wisdom
Every day
Amen



Short prayer for young children

Jesus, as I work and rest and play,
Be with me all the day.
You are my special friend,
On you I can depend.
Amen.

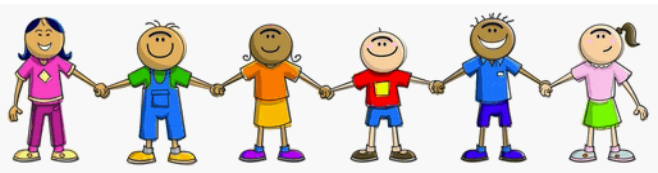
A classroom prayer

Dear God

Thank you for our school. We pray it will be a safe place of learning, fun and
friendship. Please watch over all our teachers, children and families.

Help us to learn new things, to explore the world together, to play and be
happy.

Help us to have love for each other, to have forgiveness at our heart, and to
build kindness into every day. Amen.



God Hear My Prayer

God in heaven hear my prayer,
keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too.
Amen.

A Child's Prayers For School And Play (Rec / KS1)

Dear God,

Come with me to school; be with me in my lessons and in my play.

Help me to be friendly and thoughtful, obedient to my teachers, careful in my studies and like Jesus in my words and deeds.

Amen.



A Child's Prayers For School And Play (KS2)

Come, Holy Spirit, and help me in my lessons.

Open my eyes and ears to Your world about me; the sun and stars and space, numbers and letters and words, people and places and ideas.

Give me the will to listen and learn; the patience to work well; the courage to seek and to question.

Help my teachers so that they can continue to help me. Be close to me and teach me to enjoy learning and to do my best. Amen.

God made the sun,
And God made the trees,
God made the mountains,
And God made me.
Thank you O God,
For the sun and the trees,
For making the mountains,
And for making me.



Morning Prayers

Dear Jesus,
Help us to jump into this new day
With a song of joy in our hearts.
Fill of energy and hope
Holding tightly to your hand
Excited to share another day with you.
Amen.



Oh my God you love me,
You're with me night and day,
I want to love you always,
In all I do and say,
I'll try to please you Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen



Dear Father God,
Help me to hear you today.
To hear your joy in the birds songs.
To hear your heart in the chattering voices.
To hear your voice in the quiet.
Help me to hear you today.
Amen.

Now, before I run to play,
Let me not forget to pray
To God who kept me through the night
And waked me with the morning light.
Help me, Lord, to love thee more
Than I ever loved before,
In my work and in my play
Be thou with me through the day.
Amen.

Father in heaven I give you today
All that I think or do or say.
My ears to hear, my eyes to see,
My hands and feet and all of me.
To live and work all day for you.
Amen

For the new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
We thank you Heavenly Father.
For rest and food, for love and friends,
For everything your goodness sends,
We thank you Heavenly Father.

Father, we thank thee for the night
And for the pleasant morning light.
For rest and food and loving care
And all that makes the day so fair.
Help us to do the things we should
To be to others kind and good;
In all we do in work or play
To grow more loving every day.

Lord, we thank thee for this day,
For these hours of work and play,
For the shining sun above,
For thy great and tender love.
Help us, Lord, thy will to do.
Make us loving, kind and true.

God in Heaven, hear my prayer,
keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do.
Bless all those who love me too.
Amen.

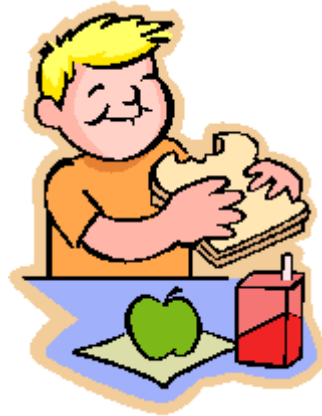
Father of all, in Heaven above,
We thank you for your love.
Our food, our homes and all we wear.
Tell us of thy loving care.

Short thanksgiving prayer for children

Father in heaven,
Thank you for family - watch over my loved ones
Thank you for play - help me to be happy and free
Thank you for my school - teach me to listen and learn
Thank you for food and rest - you give us lovely food and peaceful sleep
Thank you for all these wonderful things,
Amen.

Before Lunch-time Prayer

Bless us O God as we sit together
Bless the food we eat today,
Bless the hands that made the food,
Bless us O God, Amen



Grace Before Meals

Bless us Lord and
These thy gifts
Which we are about to receive
From thy bounty
Through Christ Our Lord
Amen.

Lunchtime prayer

Thank you for the world so sweet,
ho hum.

Thank you for the food we eat, yum,
yum.

Thank you for the birds that sing-a-
ling-a-ling.

Thank you God for everything,

Amen.



Flintstones Grace (to the Flintstones tune)

God is
Great and God is
Good and so we thank Him for our
food.
God is
Great and God is
Good and so we thank Him for our
food.
Amen, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-amen.
Amen, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-amen.
God is
Great and God is
Good and so we thank Him for our -
We thank Him for our -
We thank Him for our food!



Grace after lunch

Thank you, God for the food we
have eaten.
Thank you, God, for all our friends.
Thank you, God, for everything.
Thank you, God. Amen.

End of the day

God, our Father, I come to say thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family, and all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night, and in the morning send your light.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph take me safely home.
Thank you God for a happy day in school. Amen



Night Prayer

God, our Father, I come to say
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family
And all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light.
Amen

Thanksgiving At The End Of The Day

Thank you, O God
for everything that has happened today:
for the good things which have made me happy;
for the not so good things which have taught me
that I can't always be getting my own way;
for successes, to give me happy times to remember;
for failures, to keep me humble;
for time at school, at games, with my friends
and in my own home.
And thank you for this minute with you.
Amen.



The Day is Over

At the end of the day, I kneel and say,
"Thank You God for a lovely day.
I've tried to be good, For I know that I should."
That's my prayer at the end of the day. Amen.



End of the Week (sung)

Now the week is over
We lift our hands and pray
Thank you Heavenly Father for today.
We're sorry for the wrong things
But glad about the right
Keep us Heavenly Father
In your love tonight.

The Our Father



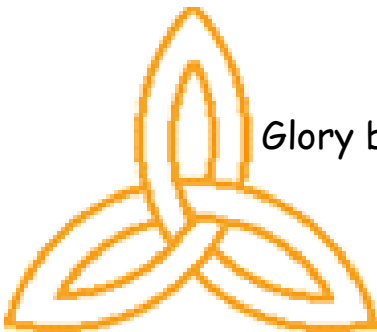
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen



Glory Be To The Father



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen

THE ANGELUS

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.



This is a famous painting about the Angelus! In this 19th century work by the French painter Jean-Francois Millet, a farming couple prays the Angelus at dusk.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, I want to do what is right.
Help me.
Holy Spirit, I want to live like Jesus.
Guide me.
Holy Spirit, I want to pray like Jesus.
Teach me.



Prayer to the Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen

Prayer to St. Joseph

Glorious Saint Joseph,
spouse of the immaculate Virgin,
obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind,
and perfect resignation to the divine Will.
Be my guide, my father, and my model through life
that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.
Amen.



Basic Rosary Guide How To Say the Rosary and Use Rosary Beads

1. At the crucifix, begin with the [Sign of the Cross](#)
2. On the first large bead say the [Our Father](#) prayer
3. Followed by three [Hail Mary](#) prayers
4. Then say one [Glory Be](#) prayer

Now you are at the medal that joins the beads.

Then announce the first Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful or Glorious Mystery depending upon what mysteries you are meditating on this particular day.

5. Then begin the decade with one [Our Father](#) all the while keeping hold of the medal.
6. On the ten small beads that follow pray ten [Hail Marys](#).
7. Followed by one [Glory Be](#) Prayer. Then the [Fatima Prayer](#). *O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of Thy mercy.*
8. When you come to the large bead, announce the [second respective mystery](#), then pray one [Our Father](#).
9. On the ten small beads pray another set of ten [Hail Marys](#) followed by one [Glory Be](#) and the [Fatima Prayer](#) called a decade, as before.
10. Continue this pattern of announcing the mystery and praying a decade. Do this for the third, fourth and fifth mystery consecutively followed by one [Our Father](#), ten [Hail Marys](#), one [Glory Be](#) and the [Fatima Prayer](#).
11. After the fifth and final decade has been prayed, after the [Fatima Prayer](#), pray the [Hail Holy Queen prayer](#). *Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope, to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears; turn, then most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*
12. It is customary to finish the Rosary prayers with the ["Let us Pray" prayer](#) from the Breviary *Let us pray, O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and Resurrection, has purchased for us the reward of eternal salvation. Grant we beseech Thee that while meditating upon these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.* Followed by the [Saint Michael Prayer](#). *Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and the snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.*
13. Now just as you began, end with the [Sign of the Cross](#).



The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary are:

1. The Baptism of Jesus
2. Wedding at Cana
3. Proclaiming the Kingdom
4. Transfiguration
5. Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary are:

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. Carrying the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary are:

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation

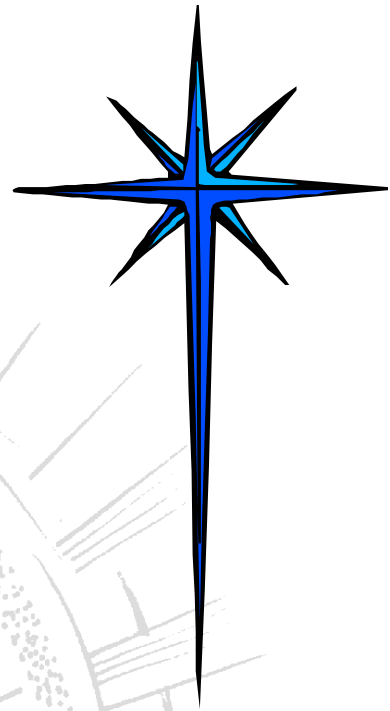
God our loving Father
We come to you today.
Be with us, hear us, guide us
In all we do and say.

You give us times and seasons,
Your Spirit makes us grow.
In times of joy and sadness,
We see your blessings flow.

I place my life before you
In all my work and play.
I'll try to walk with Jesus,
And in his friendship stay

Amen.

Walk
With
Me



The Stations of the Cross

FIRST STATION Jesus Is Condemned to Death

DEAR JESUS, there You stand a prisoner and wicked men have said that You must die. But You have done nothing wrong. You have spent Your whole life in doing good to others. I must always remember that it was for me You died so that I could go to Heaven and be happy with You.

Teach me, dear Jesus when I am blamed for something even if unjustly to be silent as You were because I love You and want to be like You.

SECOND STATION Jesus Is Made to Carry His Cross

DEAR JESUS, the cross which they are laying on Your shoulders is so heavy how it must hurt! And You are all wounded and bleeding how will You be able to carry it up that steep hill?

Teach me to remember that when I sin it hurts You even more than the heavy cross.

THIRD STATION Jesus Falls the First Time

DEAR JESUS, You are so weak and tired that You can hardly walk but the soldiers roughly order You to start on Your journey. After a few steps You stumble and fall but there is no one to help You or speak to You kindly. How I wish I could have been there to tell You that I love You and was so sorry for You.

Teach me to take every opportunity to let others know that I love them.

FOURTH STATION Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

DEAR JESUS, who is this waiting for You standing close to the place where you must pass? It is Your own Blessed Mother who loves You so much. But how it hurts her to see You so cruelly treated. She wishes they would do all these things to her instead of to You. The soldiers will not let her say a word she can only speak to You with her eyes as You pass by.

Teach me to love Your Blessed Mother very much.

FIFTH STATION Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross

DEAR JESUS, You are now so weak that You cannot carry the cross alone any more. The soldiers make a man named Simon help You with it. I wish I had been Simon so that I could have helped You.

Teach me to remember that I am helping You even more now when I show kindness to others / for Your sake.

SIXTH STATION Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

DEAR JESUS, Your face was all covered with dust and blood and the wicked people had been spitting on it. The blood was trickling down from the crown of thorns on Your head right into Your eyes when St. Veronica pushed her way through the crowd and wiped Your face with her veil. To thank her for being so brave You left the picture of Your face there on the veil.

Teach me to remember that I must never be afraid to say I belong to You and am Your child.

SEVENTH STATION Jesus Falls the Second Time

DEAR JESUS, this time You fall more heavily than before and it is harder to get up. The soldiers push and strike You to make You hurry along when You can hardly walk. It frightens me to think how cruelly You are treated, You Who are my Lord and my God.

Teach me to understand what a dreadful thing sin is because to pay for it You suffered so much.

EIGHTH STATION Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem.

DEAR JESUS, there are some women waiting by the roadside to see You pass. They are so sorry for You that they are crying. You speak to them kindly and tell them not to weep for You but for themselves and their children because many people are going to suffer terribly as a punishment for not having believed in You.

Teach me to be very sorry for my sins / not for fear of being punished for them / but because they hurt You.

NINTH STATION Jesus Falls the Third Time

DEAR JESUS, for the last time You stumble and fall to the ground. Shall You ever be able to get up again? The cross crushes You with its weight and the people around wonder if You are not dead already. But no once more You climb to Your feet and struggle forward up the hill.

Teach me never to be discouraged even if I keep falling into the same sins but help me to begin again, at once, to obey You and to do Your will.

TENTH STATION Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

DEAR JESUS, at last You have reached the top of the hill the place where You are to die. There is a big crowd of people around You, they are laughing at You and calling You wicked names. Your dear Mother and Your friends cannot get near. The executioner roughly pulls off all Your garments and the blood pours down. All the people are looking at You.

Teach me to be willing sometimes to give up little pleasures and go without things that I want because You suffered so much for me.

ELEVENTH STATION Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

DEAR JESUS, now they are putting big nails through Your hands and feet to fasten You to the cross. It hurts me only to prick my finger with a pin. How much more those nails must hurt You! When the executioner tells You stretch out Your hand or Your foot You obey him without saying a word. And I when I am told to do some little, easy thing how often I disobey!

Teach me to be always perfectly obedient because You were so obedient when being nailed to the cross.

TWELFTH STATION Jesus Dies on the Cross

DEAR JESUS, You are hanging on the cross and dying. You are dying for me so that I can be God's child and go to Heaven. You are not angry with the wicked men who killed You. You have forgiven them and You asked Your Father to forgive them, too. The people are all going away. I think some of them are beginning to be sorry. Your Blessed Mother and Your friends are standing close by the cross. I wish I had been with them. I would have stayed there to the very end to show how much I love You.

Teach me always to forgive anyone who is unkind to me because You forgave Your murderers when You hung dying on the cross.

THIRTEENTH STATION Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

DEAR JESUS, it is very quiet now around the cross. Everybody has gone away but a few soldiers and Your Mother and Your friends. Two of Your friends bring a ladder and oh, so slowly and carefully they take You down and lay You in the arms of Your Blessed Mother. Her heart is breaking as she looks at the crown of thorns and the nails and all Your dreadful wounds.

Teach me to comfort Your dear Mother now by never hurting You with my sins.

FOURTEENTH STATION Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

DEAR JESUS, You are all ready to be laid in the tomb. Your wounds have been washed and You are wrapped in clean white linen cloths. You must be buried tonight. In a garden close by which belongs to one of Your friends there is a new tomb cut in the rock. Now, You are being carried there. Your Blessed Mother looks at You for the last time how can she bear to let You go? But in three days, dear Jesus You will rise from the dead all bright and glorious to go back to Heaven never to suffer any more.

Teach me, among the joys of earth / always to remember the joys of Heaven. Help me to love You so much that, when I die I shall be happy with You there forever.

Monthly Prayer Focuses



September Prayer Focus



Dedication for September:

The Seven Sorrows

Liturgical Colours:

Ordinary Time: Green

During September we reflect on the seven sorrows of Mary:

1. Prophecy of Simeon.
2. Flight into Egypt.
3. Lost in the Temple.
4. Meeting on the Way of the Cross.
5. Crucifixion.
6. Taking down from the Cross.
7. Burial.

These saints have their feast days in September:

St. Matthew	21 st September
St. Vincent de Paul	27 th September
Feast of the Archangels	29 th September
St. Jerome	30 th September

29th September ~ Feast of the Archangels (Michaelmas)

Angels are signs of God's care and love. They remind us how God knows each of us. When we say the Nicene Creed, we say we believe in one God 'maker of all that is seen and unseen.' God created the angels, whether we see them or not, and they are most wondrous to contemplate! There are nine classes of angels (Colossians 1:16 and Romans 8:38). Archangels are one of these. Three archangels are named in the Bible: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. These are the three we celebrate on this day.

The Archangel Gabriel

The word angel means 'messenger' and Gabriel is the archangel who brought very important messages from God. We learn of him in the Old Testament book of Daniel. In the New Testament, Gabriel came to Zechariah to tell him of the child, John the Baptist that Zechariah and Elizabeth would have. Of course, it was Gabriel who came to Mary asking her to be the Mother of God. Tradition also suggests that Gabriel will sound the trumpet on the day of judgement, calling all people from all times and places. The name Gabriel means 'God is my strength.'



Prayer to Archangel Gabriel

Please grant me the wisdom of understanding and the ability to communicate with others heart to heart.

The Archangel Raphael

Raphael only appears in once in the Bible in the Book of Tobit in the Old Testament. His is a wonderful story of guidance, healing and love. In the Gospel of John, in the story of the healing pool where Jesus heals a man, tradition says that it was Raphael who stirred the waters.



Prayer to Archangel Raphael

Please help me to surrender myself, body and soul, to your healing. I accept healing in every part of me.

The Archangel Michael

In the Old Testament, Michael is described as standing guard over God's people. The Book of Revelation tells how Michael cast the angels who thought they were like God, out of Heaven. The name Michael means 'Who is like God?' Michael is thought of as a great protector, and is often shown dressed in armour. As Michael fights against evil, his feast day offers images of good versus evil.

Prayer to Archangel Michael

Please overshadow me with your sword of light, so there is no more darkness around me.

October Prayer Focus



Dedication for October:

The Holy Rosary

Liturgical Colours:

Ordinary Time: **Green**

October is traditionally dedicated to Mary and in particular the Rosary. Try to say a decade of the rosary regularly and introduce children to the mysteries of the Rosary

These saints have their feast days in October:

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

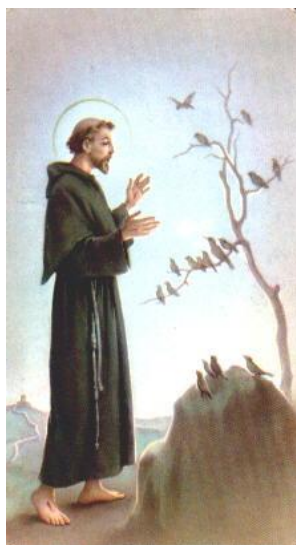
1st October

St. Francis Assisi

4th October

St. Teresa of Avila

15th October



November Prayer Focus



Dedication for November: The Holy Souls

Liturgical Colours: Ordinary Time: green
 Advent: purple

During November we remember all those who have died. We remember loved ones, family and friends with thanksgiving and prayer.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Today we remember our loved ones, family and friends who have died and joined you in heaven. We are grateful for the joy and love these special people brought to our lives. With faith and hope we pray that our loved ones are at peace and enjoying eternal happiness in your care. Amen.

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.”*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

1st November – All Saints Day

All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. We remember all holy and blessed people who loved God very much. Saints are people who dedicated their lives to God and served others selflessly.

Prayer

On this day dedicated to the saints of our church, we are thankful for their many good works and faithful love of God. How lucky we are to have such good people to learn from and look up to. Today as we honour the saints, we pray for guidance and courage and faith to also follow God in all we do each day. Amen.

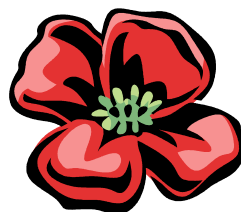
11th November – Remembrance Day

On the 11th November we remember all those who have sacrificed their lives in the two world wars and other conflicts.



These saints have their feast days in November:

St Martin de Porres:	3 rd November
St Martin de Tours:	11 th November
St Andrew (Patron Saint of Scotland):	30 th November



December Prayer Focus



Dedication for November: The Immaculate Conception / Advent

Liturgical Colours: Advent: purple to symbolise waiting, penance and preparation

Christmas: White / Gold to symbolise joy.

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' Matthew 3:3

The season of Advent marks the beginning of the church year. The word 'advent' comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning arrival or coming. The first Sunday of advent follows the feast of Christ the King. The Advent season is one of anticipation, reflection and hope as we wait for the arrival of Jesus.

Prayer

Be with us, Lord, as we enter this waiting season of Advent. We thank you for the many blessings in our lives and with anticipation, preparation and hope we look forward to the arrival of your son, Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.



The Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent wreath with four candles has been an Advent ritual for hundreds of years. The Advent wreath is a symbol of the four week wait for Jesus' birth. The evergreen leaves remind us of the new life we have in Jesus, the circle represents the eternity of God's love and the candles represent the light and hope Jesus brings into the world.

Prayer for Week 1

As we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, we start our holy path to Christmas. We give thanks to God for all the good things in our lives, especially the love of our family and friends. We are happy to share God's love with others while we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's son. We ask you to help us stay on the Advent path and keep our hearts focused on Jesus as we prepare for Christmas. Amen.

Prayer for Week 2

Mary and Joseph were people of great love. They were chosen to be the parents of Jesus because of their love for God. We are thankful to have their obedience, kindness and deep faith as our examples. As we travel on our Advent path and light the second candle, we pray that we too will love God as much as Mary and Joseph.

Prayer for Week 3

The journey to Bethlehem must have been very hard for Mary and Joseph. A long donkey ride of a rough path must have seemed to go on forever, but Mary and Joseph trusted God and knew that God would be there to take care of them. We are so thankful that God is always here for us, during good times and bad. We remember this when we light the third candle. As we continue on the Advent path we ask God to be with us in all we do each day. Amen.

Prayer for Week 4

How excited Mary and Joseph must have been as the day of Jesus' birth grew closer! Their hearts must have been full of joy and thanksgiving. As we light the fourth candle and Christmas Day comes closer, we too have become more excited and joyful. Be with us, loving God, and help us continue to keep Jesus in our hearts as our Advent path takes us closer to Christmas. Amen.

The first observance of Christmas in December was recorded on a Roman calendar around 336AD. It is believed that Christmas customs and celebrations grew out of harvest celebrations held in December. The end of the harvest was marked with special foods, decorations, singing and gift-giving and these developed into the Christmas traditions we know today.

Christmas Eve Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for sending us your son, Jesus, who gives us light and hope in the days ahead. We ask that you guide our family and help them to reflect the Holy Family in all we say and do, each and every day. Amen.

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!' Luke
2:14



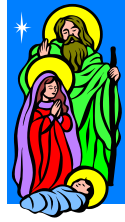
Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord, as we gather with family and friends on this happy day, we remember the gift of the baby Jesus born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. We are thankful for our family and friends who have come together with love and joy to celebrate the gift of Jesus. Be with us today and help us keep the love and joy we feel in our hearts with us all year long. Amen.

These Saints have their feast day in December :

St Nicholas	6 th December
St Lucy	13 th December
St Stephen	26 th December

January Prayer Focus



Dedication for January: The Holy Childhood of Jesus

Liturgical Colours: Green to symbolise new life and hope.

During January we think about the years Jesus spent growing up with Mary and Joseph.

1st January – The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

'Rejoice O highly favoured Lady! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.' Luke 1:28

Prayer

Holy Mary, Mother of God, we ask you to pray with us this day. What an example of faithfulness you are to us. Without hesitating you said yes to God when the angel Gabriel told you that you would have a son who should be named Jesus, who would be born to you by the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that as we grow in faith we too will say yes to God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



6th January – The Feast of the Epiphany

'When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.'

Matthew 2: 10-12

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask that you bless our home today. We thank you for the love we have for each other and for you. With the prayers of the saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, we ask that our home be a place of happiness, love and understanding, acceptance and safety for all who live and visit here. We pray in your name. Amen.



Sunday after Epiphany – The Baptism of the Lord

This feast is dedicated to the Baptism of Jesus by his cousin, John the Baptist. Jesus was an adult when he was baptised in the River Jordan. The Baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of his public ministry. Jesus came from Galilee to be baptised. After his baptism he came out of the water and the sky opened and he saw the Spirit of God descend like a dove and hover over him. A voice from heaven said: 'This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.' (Matthew 3:13-17)

Prayer

Just as Jesus was baptised with water into the family of God, we too have been baptised with water into our community of faith. Today we are grateful for the new life we have in Jesus through our baptism. Help us to live every day as children of God. Amen.

These Saints have their feast day in January:

St. Agnes	21 st January
St. Thomas Aquinas	28 th January
St John Bosco	31 st January

February Prayer Focus



Dedication for February: The Holy Family

Liturgical Colours: Ordinary Time: Green to symbolise new life and hope.

Lent: Purple to symbolise penance and sacrifice.

During February we think about the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We recognise how they are our best examples of love, charity, hope and fidelity.

2nd February – The Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas

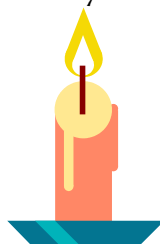
'Simeon took Baby Jesus in his arms and said: 'Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed displayed for all to see. A revealing light to the Gentile, the glory of your people, Israel.'

Luke 2:29-30

The Presentation of the Lord is the story of Jesus being brought to the temple in Jerusalem. According to Jewish law a woman whose firstborn was a son was to stay in seclusion for forty days after giving birth. Parents then brought their children to the temple to be blessed. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. The highlight of this visit to the temple was meeting Simeon, who was a very devout Jew. Simeon had prayed that he would not die without seeing the Messiah. As Mary and Joseph arrived at the temple, Simeon was filled with the Spirit. He took Jesus in his arms, blessed him and proclaimed that this was truly the Son of God. This feast is also called Candlemas. Since the seventh century there has been a tradition of blessing candles before Mass on this day and giving them to people to use throughout the year.

Prayer

Jesus, you are the Light of the World. We know that you are the Good News of love and hope in our lives. We know that your light and love will get us through any difficult or dark times. Be with us. In your name we pray. Amen.



March Prayer Focus



Dedication for March: St. Joseph

Liturgical Colours: Lent: Purple to symbolise penance and sacrifice.

During March we remember St. Joseph. He is well loved for being an understanding and supportive husband to Mary and protector and teacher to young Jesus.

These saints have their feast days in March:

St. David (Patron Saint of Wales)	1 st March
St. Patrick (Patron Saint of Ireland)	17 th March
St. Joseph	19 th March

Lent

Around 400AD, the Christian church formally established the season of Lent. The word 'Lent' means 'lengthen' and it is an old English word for spring. In spring the days grow longer, brighter and warmer, and we experience new life everywhere in nature. What a great connection to the life we have in Jesus.

Early Christians were very repentant during Lent. People were sombre, strictly fasted for the whole forty days and even wore a rough fabric called sackcloth. Today we try to become better people and grow closer to Jesus by giving up negative habits and taking on positive ones.

Palm Sunday

'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' Matthew 21:9

On Palm Sunday we remember when Jesus arrived in the city of Jerusalem. Many people loved Jesus. When he came to the city, they were very excited. He rode in on a donkey, and many went to greet him. They shouted, 'Hosanna! Hosanna!' as they God for all the wonderful things Jesus had done. They waved branches taken from trees to show honour and respect for Jesus. They lined the streets with their cloaks.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, today we remember your humble but triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. You truly are the Son of God, the Messiah. We will keep you in our hearts this week as we remember your Holy Week journey so many years ago. Hosanna! Hosanna to Jesus our King! Amen.

Holy Week

The week leading up to Easter is the richest time of the year for Christians. It is filled with symbols of triumph, tragedy, fear, and incredible love.

Maundy Thursday

We remember the special Passover meal that Jesus shared with his special friends. Jesus knew that he would soon die and he wanted to show his friends how much he loved them. Jesus also wanted to teach each of them how they were to treat others. So, at dinner, he took a bowl of water and a towel and he washed their feet. They understood Jesus was asking them to love and help others. Then Jesus broke his bread and shared it – an act that we remember each time we celebrate Mass.

Good Friday

'From noon on, darkness fell over the land and Jesus gave up his spirit and died.'
Matthew 27:45, 50

On Good Friday we recall the day that Jesus died. His friends were very sad and they lovingly buried his body.

Easter Sunday



'And entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them. 'Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here, see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'
Mark 16: 5-7

Easter is the holiest of all days for Christians. It is the time we celebrate the new life we have in Jesus, Son of God, who died and three days later rose from the dead. The gift of hope and life after death is the eternal message of the day. What a sacrifice Jesus made for each of us!

Prayer

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ has risen! What a wonderful day this is! On this Easter day we celebrate with joy and hope in our hearts. Jesus our Lord has risen! Be with us today, Lord Jesus, as we celebrate the Good News of Easter. Amen.

April Prayer Focus



Dedication for April: **The Holy Eucharist and the Holy Spirit**

Liturgical Colours: **Easter: White - to remind us of victory and joy.**

During April we remember two of the important ways that God is present in our everyday lives.

These saints have their feast days in April:

St. George (Patron Saint of England): 23rd April

St. Mark the Evangelist 25th April

St. Catherine of Siena 29th April

Rejoice!

The stone is rolled away,
grave clothes neatly folded,
no more the smell of death,
behold the empty tomb!
Halleluiah!

Rejoice!

Scripture has been fulfilled,
the sting of death is gone,
the victory has been won,
behold the risen Christ!
Halleluiah!

Rejoice!

The curtain's torn in two,
our God invites us in,
Christ's sacrifice enough
to wash away our sins!
Halleluiah!
He is risen!

May Prayer Focus



Dedication for May: The Month of Mary

Liturgical Colours: Easter: White – to remind us of victory and joy.
Ordinary Time: Green – the colour of life and hope.

During May, we remember Mary as the Mother of God and the mother of us all.

These saints have their feast days in May:

St. James and St. Philip	3 rd May
St. Matthias	14 th May
St. Phillip Neri	May 26 th

Pentecost Sunday (Liturgical Colour – red)

'And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and the Spirit gave them utterance.'

Acts 2:2-4

The word Pentecost means 'fifty' and is celebrated fifty days after Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. On this day we remember Jesus' friends who gathered in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. As they prayed together, a strong wind came up with a loud noise and flames of fire came to rest on their heads, filling them with courage and strength to spread the Good News.

The gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit are knowledge, understanding, counsel, strength, piety, fear of the Lord and wisdom. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, generosity, mildness, self-control, modesty and chastity.

Prayer

On this day of Pentecost, we are thankful for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just as the disciples were empowered to spread the Good News of Jesus, so too are we.

We pray that the Fruits of the Holy Spirit will come to grow in us as we grow in our love for you, God.

May the Holy Spirit be with us.

Amen.



June Prayer Focus



Dedication for June: **The Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Liturgical Colours: **Ordinary Time: Green – the colour of life and hope.**

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol to help us understand that Jesus has a tremendous love for us.

It also helps us to remember that Jesus is human as well as being God. It was during the years 800 – 1000 that devotion to the Sacred Heart began although the rewards of devotion to the Sacred Heart were only revealed during the 17th century to Margaret Mary Alacoque.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 helps to explain this devotion:

'The human heart, a person's deepest self, is where God has written his covenant.'

June 29th ~ St Peter and St. Paul

Many people have helped spread the Good News of Jesus but these two saints were among the very first and are sometimes called the 'architects' of our faith.

St. Peter was a fisherman who followed Jesus, learned from him and loved him. After Jesus was gone from Earth, the other apostles saw him as their leader. Like us, he did not always find it easy to follow Jesus and denied him three times when he was arrested after the Last Supper.

St. Paul had more education than Peter and he never met Jesus. At first he persecuted Christians but with God's help he changed his mind. He then became a great teacher and organiser of Christian groups.

Although they were very different men and had different experiences of Jesus, they both used their talents and energy to bring the Good News of Jesus to many in the world.

St Peter and St Paul. Pray for us.



July Prayer Focus



Dedication for July:

The Precious Blood

Liturgical Colours:
and hope.

Ordinary Time: Green – the colour of life

We all have blood in our bodies that gives us life. Blood is important, or precious, to us. When Jesus suffered and died for us, he gave up his body and his blood. When we think about all Jesus has done for us, we are thankful that he gave us everything he had to give.

Prayer

God our Creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We give thanks for all those who support and sustain us and remember that Jesus grew in love and discipline within a human family. We ask you to help us to continue to grow in health, strength and wisdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

These saints have their feast days in July:

St. Thomas the Apostle	3 rd July
St. Swithun	15 th July
St. Mary Magdalene	22 nd July

August Prayer Focus



Dedication for August:

The Blessed Sacrament

Liturgical Colour:

Ordinary Time: Green – the colour of life and hope.

The Blessed Sacrament is the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Blessed Sacrament helps us to remember that even when there is not a Mass, Jesus, in the Eucharist, is still present in the church. It is important to teach children to always be respectful in Church and to enjoy the quiet, prayerful atmosphere that the Blessed Sacrament encourages.

*Oh, Sacrament most Holy, Oh Sacrament divine,
All praise and all thanksgiving are every moment thine.*

6th August ~ Feast of the Transfiguration

Peter, James and John witnessed the transfiguration or presentation of the divine glory of Christ. It is believed that Christ wanted to strengthen the faith of the Apostles before his death, so that they would know him when he returned. Through this amazing revelation, we recognise Jesus' divinity and hope for our own glory.

15th August ~ Feast of the Assumption

'My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, My spirit finds joy in God my saviour.'
Luke 1:46



The assumption of Mary is the day we remember the ascension of Mary, body and soul to heaven. The belief of people ascending into heaven is part of both the Christian and Jewish tradition. In 1915 Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary as official church doctrine. It is a holy day of obligation.

Prayer

Holy Mary, on this day we honour your life as the chosen mother of Jesus.

We remember your dedication to God and the joy and heartache you had in your life as you followed God's plan for you.

Today we pray for the love you had for God, the hope you had in Jesus, and the joy you found in your heart. Pray for us as we grow in love, hope and joy.

Amen.

