

## 1 Policy

**St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School (School) is a work of ministry of the Cannon Hill Catholic Parish. The Liturgy Policy affirms the School's commitment to form students and the community for full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy and the sacraments and of the Church.**

**Formation will include opportunities for teaching and learning about the nature, purpose and structure of liturgical celebrations and appropriate ways of participation in the liturgy.**

## 2 Rationale

*'The Catholic school has not come into being as a private initiative, but as an expression of the reality of the Church, having by its nature a public character. It fulfils a service of public usefulness that is decidedly configured in the perspective of the Catholic faith.'*

(The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, p16)

The preparation of and participation in liturgy provides opportunities for our School community to practice and promote the values of respect, justice, dignity, love, truth, compassion, reverence, and wonder and awe. In line with the School Mission the School community proclaims, lives and celebrates the Gospel Values and strong faith of the Catholic tradition.

## 3 Aims

This policy provides a framework for liturgical celebrations, with the following key goals:

- to be sensitive to ways in which children may be drawn more and more into full participation with the Church in the liturgy, reflecting on the context of our community, age, cultural background and the faith traditions of participants;
- to celebrate prayer rituals to mark special celebrations in everyday life, rites of passage and moments of 'critical concern or joyful exuberance';
- to promote the careful preparation and planning of appropriate forms of liturgical celebration;

Whilst the School prayer rituals follow a recognised structure, they will also provide opportunities for flexibility and adaptation in celebration of themes and experiences.

## 4 Implementation

School prayer rituals follow a recognised structure and also provide opportunities for adaptation in celebration of themes and experiences.

### 4.1 Whole School Celebrations

A program of Masses, non-Eucharistic liturgies and prayer celebrations will be followed throughout the year. The selection of these and other celebrations will be decided on a year-to-year basis.

A typical program is presented in **Annexure A**.

### 4.2 Weekly Masses

Classes from Years 3 to 6 will participate in the Parish Friday Mass on a rostered basis. Year 2 will join the roster after the parish celebration of the reception of Confirmation and First Eucharist (Term 3).

Students will be selected and prepared to minister during Friday Mass in the following ways:

- Proclaiming the readings and leading the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation;
- Writing and praying 5 or 6 prayers of general intercession; and
- Bringing forward the Offertory Procession.

### **4.3 Term School Sponsored Masses**

Once each Term the School will attend and assist at a Sunday Mass, usually the 9:30am Mass on Sunday morning.

Students will:

- Proclaim the readings for the day;
- Lead the Prayers of Intercession; and
- Bringing forward the Offertory Procession.

Students may also participate in the Entrance Procession, sing a song and/or offer a Thanksgiving Reflection. This is to be discussed and planned with the Priest.

### **4.4 Sacramental Program**

In keeping with the Archdiocesan Policy, St Oliver Plunkett Parish will support the students of the School in preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Penance after they have enrolled in and completed Parish based preparation programs.

Students may be invited to participate in the Parish celebrations of these Sacraments (for example readings, hymns, offertory).

### **4.5 Class Practices**

Class Practices may include daily prayer circle, a sacred space to reflect the liturgical seasons, celebration of learning with a prayer component and the opportunity to lead Prayer Assembly throughout the school year.

## **5 Roles and Responsibilities**

### **5.1 Role of the Teacher**

- To participate in School liturgies.
- To plan and prepare liturgies in accordance with Church guidelines, reflecting practices that are appropriate and relevant to the needs of the students.
- To set out clear behavioural expectations for students attending liturgical events and Parish Mass.
- To communicate regularly with the Parish Priest.

### **5.2 Role of the Students**

The expectations for the attendance of students at the Parish mass include:

- To be actively involved in the preparation and celebration of the liturgy, as directed by their teachers.
- To be aware of the Scripture readings for the day. (The Lectionary for Masses with Children may be used in exploring the Scripture readings with the class, however, the Parish Priest will use the 'adult' formal Church lectionary during the celebration of mass)

- To be prepared for appropriate behaviour expectations entering and leaving the Church as well as how to participate in the liturgy.
- To be aware of the correct procedure to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

### 5.3 Role of Parents/Carers

- To support their child's active participation in celebrations of the liturgy.
- To participate in the celebrations of the liturgy when appropriate and possible.
- To maintain an awareness of the Parish Sacramental Program and to support their child's preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Penance.

## 6 Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier at the discretion of the Principal or the Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE).

## 7 Related documents

- i. The St Oliver Plunkett Primary School **Religious Education Curriculum**, published separately and available on request.

Celebration Type	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
<b>Masses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Friday (Classes in Years 3 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Friday (Classes in Years 3 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Friday (Classes in Years 2 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Friday (Classes in Years 2 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> <li>End of Year Community Mass (Celebrate Advent)</li> </ul>
<b>Liturgies</b> (Non-Eucharistic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole School Welcome Liturgy</li> <li>Year Six Leadership Commissioning Ceremony</li> <li>Ash Wednesday Liturgy</li> <li>Holy Week (Commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pentecost</li> <li>ANZAC Day 25th April</li> <li>Feast of Nano-Nagle 26th April</li> <li>Mother's Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feast of St Oliver Plunkett 1st July</li> <li>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 15th August</li> <li>Father's Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grandparent's Day</li> <li>Year Six Thanksgiving Completion of Primary School (Include the presentation of Completion of primary School certificates to students)</li> <li>Year 6 Leadership Handover Ceremony to the Year 5 students who will be leaders in the following year.</li> </ul>
<b>Prayer Assemblies</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 8th August</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Saints Day 1st Nov</li> <li>All Souls Day 2nd Nov</li> </ul>

Note: The selection of these and other celebrations will be decided on a year-to-year basis