



Thornleigh
Salesian College

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Person Responsible:	N McKenna CGS
Last Reviewed:	September 2023
Adopted by Headteacher:	September 2023
Next Review due:	September 2024

Thornleigh Salesian College

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Mission Statement

Thornleigh Salesian College is a community rooted in faith in Jesus where all are valued, loved and cherished, so they can aspire for academic excellence, in an atmosphere of compassion and forgiveness which seeks to reach out in service and gratitude.

Rooted in Faith

The aim of our prayer and liturgy policy and practice are

- To make spiritual experience meaningful, inclusive and accessible for all members of our school community
- To reflect the traditions of the Catholic Church and our Salesian charism
- To allow students and staff opportunities to reflect on the mission of our school
- To provide opportunities for individual reflection, spiritual growth and experiences of the transcendent and divine

Our prayer and liturgy experiences are delivered within the context of our unique Salesian charism. Our Salesian values of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour permeate our approach.

We seek to ensure that experiences of prayer and worship are relevant for our students and where possible and appropriate, are co-constructed with students and are student-led.

Our prayer and liturgy structure is based on the liturgical year and where possible and appropriate links to other key events in the year such as Refugee Week, Earth Day, and Remembrance.

Opportunities for Collective Worship

We provide numerous and varied opportunities for collective worship within our community.

Tutor Time

Each day begins with a tutor period. At this time all students will say the school prayer. Form tutors will also invite students to submit their own intentions for the form to pray for.

Each week in the extended tutor sessions each form will have the opportunity for a longer reflection that will be focussed on either the theme of the week or a special intention.

The school chaplain supports form tutors by providing appropriate materials and resources for these sessions.

Weekly Assemblies

Each year group has a weekly assembly in the Chapel. These assemblies are prepared and led by tutor groups, departments, student leadership teams, year teams and senior leaders along with external visitors. They are supported by the year leaders, the SLT and the Chaplaincy team. All chapel assemblies begin with a reading from Scripture and end with the school prayer.

Weekly Mass

Each week mass is celebrated on a Thursday lunch time and a Friday morning before school. The Thursday mass is for form groups and all students in the school get the opportunity to lead and participate in this celebration. Mass is also celebrated on key Salesian feast days along with Holy Days of Obligation.

Reconciliation

All students in KS3 and KS4 are prepared for the sacrament of reconciliation either during Advent or Lent. The sacrament of reconciliation is available on request throughout the year for staff and students.

Confirmation

The school works alongside the partner parishes to prepare students in Year 8 or above for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Catechists from the parishes work alongside school staff on this preparation programme.

Liturgical Celebrations

There are whole school liturgical celebrations at key times in the school year including

- Start of the school year
- Christmas
- Don Bosco Day
- Mission Week
- Easter
- Remembrance
- Ash Wednesday
- End of the School Year

Staff Prayer

Staff are encouraged to lead and participate in collective worship. The school year begins with a staff Mass. Each week staff across the school lead a staff reflection in the Chapel briefing. Staff meetings begin with the school prayer.

Wider Opportunities

There are wider opportunities for the development of the spiritual life of the community. These include

- Community Masses
- Retreat days for all Year 7 students
- Residential retreat programme to Savio House for Year 7-9
- Opportunities to attend Youth Events such as Flame
- Opportunities to be Chaplaincy/Liturgy Leaders
- Participation in Parish Events
- Staff Mission Goals and Accompaniment programme
- Salesian Ministry
- CPD pathways