St Mary's RC Primary School
Annual Plan of Provision (APOP) 2026-2027

Part 1: A strategic overview of the prayer and liturgical life of the school over the coming year.

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- **During 2026-72026, we aim to increase opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate Collective Worship, enabling them to develop confidence, leadership skills and a deeper understanding of prayer and worship:**

  - Appoint worship leaders from each class to support the planning and delivery of Collective Worship. Provide clear roles and responsibilities.
  - Deliver training for worship leaders on planning worship using the Gather, Word, Response and Mission structure, choosing appropriate scripture, prayers and reflection activities.
  - Ensure every class plans and leads Collective Worship at least once each half term, with opportunities for pupils to choose themes, prayers, music and responses.
  - Provide opportunities for worship leaders to lead whole-school, class and liturgical celebrations throughout the year.
  - Produce simple planning templates, prayer resources and reflection materials to support pupils in planning independently.
  - Following each worship session, pupils evaluate what went well and identify next steps for improvement.
  - Gather feedback from staff and pupils.
  - Celebrate examples of pupil-led worship through newsletters, displays, assemblies and governor visits.
- **The number and timing of Masses to be celebrated during the year, including the plan for any holydays of obligation that fall within the school term.**

Masses 2026 – 2027				
Date	**Time**	**Mass**	**Location**	**Participants**
23rd Sept	9am	New School Year	School Hall	Whole School
25th Sept	Midday	Diocesan	St John's Cathedral	Mini Vinnies
7th Oct	9am	Harvest Mass	School Hall	Whole School
2nd Dec	9am	Advent	School Hall	Whole School
6th Jan	9am	Epiphany	School Hall	Whole School
10th Feb	9am	Ash Wednesday Mass	School Hall	
14th Apr	9 am	Easter Mass	School Hall	Whole School
12th May	9 am	Pentecost	School Hall	Whole School
23rd June	9 am	St Peter and St Paul	School Hall	Whole School
7st July	9 am	Leavers' Mass	School Hall	Year 6
21st July	9 am	End of Year Mass	School Hall	Whole School

- **Opportunities for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**
  During Lent, the Diocesan Ignite team visit school for a whole day working in all the classes focused on Reconciliation. The day end with a reconciliation service whereby additional priests attend to enable pupils to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This takes place in the school Hall and is facilitated by the Ignite Team. Typically, classes from Year 4 upwards will come to the Hall in silence.

They will sit in a circle around a prayer focus table, with a candle lit and soft music playing. They will be led in their reflection and prayers by an adult whilst taking turns to speak with a priest privately in a corner of the Hall. All pupils are given the opportunity to participate in the adult-led refection although only pupils who have made their First Confession in the Catholic faith will receive absolution from a priest.

Reconciliation Date	
March 2027	Lent

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- **<u>An overview of the year including significant dates, engagement with wider Church initiative.</u>**

Date	Time	Event	Location	Participants
Oct 2026	TBC	Harvest – Food Bank	School Hall	Whole School
April 2027	From 9am	CAFOD: Big Lent Walk	School Field	Whole School
Lent	10.45am	Year 5 and Mini Vinnies will hold Stations of the Cross Assembly	School Hall	Whole School
May 2027	-	Mary's Assembly – KS1	School	Whole School

- **<u>Improving the prayer and liturgical life of the school.</u>**
  - To develop worship leaders are established and actively involved in leading worship.
  - To develop pupils who confidently plan and lead worship with decreasing adult support.
  - For Pupil-led worship to become a regular feature across the school.
  - To develop pupils who confidently lead worship for different audiences.
  - For pupils to develop resources which will support them in planning meaningful worship.
  - To develop leaders at all levels who show increasing confidence and quality through reflection and evaluation of collective worship.
  - For the wider school community to recognise and value pupil leadership in worship.

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- **<u>An action plan for the year.</u>**

Action	By Whom	By When
Establish pupil worship leaders	Class teachers	Sept 2026
Provide training	RE lead and Year 5	As needed
Continue regular pupil-led worship	Class teachers and RE Lead	ongoing
Develop leadership across the school	Class teachers and RE Lead	ongoing
Add to the planning resources	RE lead	ongoing
Evaluate worship	RE Lead, Governor and Pupil worship leaders	ongoing
Share good practice	All staff	ongoing
Formation Training for Year 5	Ignite Team	July 2027

Part 2: An overview of Formation demonstrating that all pupils and staff are able to engage and participate in the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Prayer and Liturgy takes place each week throughout the school year. It is an integral part of our ethos, aims and relationships with Christian values that permeate through all aspects of school life and all our relationships. Prayer and Liturgy is a way of deepening our relationship with God together as a school family and individually.

At St Mary's, we believe that all pupils, whatever their age, ability or faith background, can engagein the prayer life of the school, whether that involves class prayer or reflection times, Gospel or Year Group assemblies, Liturgies or Masses. Pupils are supported in developing their prayer life through explicit teaching of common Catholic prayers and responses, both sung and spoken. Each year, Headteacher supports the pupils in understanding the importance of worship, enabling practise and the embedding of prayerand liturgical norms. These are consolidated in daily prayers within the classroom, Year group prayers and in key stage prayers.

Pupils can choose to join the Mini Vinnies and/or to become a class prayer leader. Older pupils attend confession during Lent, whilst all pupils participate in prayer opportunities such as Stations of the Cross, and the rosary in May. These opportunities enable pupils to deepen their relationship with God through prayer.

Each classroom has a Prayer Table which is used as a focal point during class Prayer and Liturgy. The prayer leaders in each class are responsible for setting up and maintaining the Prayer Tables as well as recording moments or examples of the prayer life of the class.

Formation for staff is provided through regular staff development opportunities outlined in the CPD calendar for the year. At Induction, Staff are provided with information about the expectations for Prayer and Liturgy at St Mary's. They also take part in Trust induction about what it means to work in a Catholic school. All staff are given the opportunity to complete the Diocesan Certificate of Catholic Education (DCCS) provided by the Diocese.

We encourage visits from our Parish Priest to help answer questions pupils and staff might have and to deepen their understanding of prayer and liturgy. Visits to the Cathedral and Walsingham also help enhance the prayer life of pupils throughout the school.

There is an expectation that pupils in certain Year groups will learn the following prayers:

Age Phase			
EYFS	**5 – 7 (KS1)**	**7 – 9 (Lower KS2)**	**9 – 11 (Upper KS2)**
• The Sign of the Cross • Morning Prayer • Grace before meals • Afternoon prayer • CAFOD prayers for the Common Good & Human Dignity	• The Lord's Prayer • Hail Mary • Glory Be • CAFOD prayers for Stewardship and Subsidiarity	• The Apostles' Creed • An Act of Contrition • Angel of God • Come, Holy Spirit • The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester • Hail Holy Queen • CAFOD prayers for Participation & Solidarity	• The Nicene Creed • Morning Offering • The Rosary • The Magnificat • Act of Faith • Act of Hope • Act of Love • CAFOD prayers for the Preferential Option for the Poor and Distributive Justice

Part 3: An overview of Formation to ensure that pupils who are able to exercise ministry during prayer & liturgy are formed to do so, identifying those pupils in a way that is sensitive and not exclusionary.

Pupils are taught that they are all able to **engage** in the prayer and liturgical life of the school, regardless of their faith background. They can do this by joining in with reflection and prayer opportunities, through

listening to the Word, in receiving a blessing, by being present. During classroom or Year Group assemblies, they can read prayers and Bible extracts.

However, during Masses, only those who have made their baptismal promise to be 'Prophet, Priest or King' can actively minister. This is explained to pupils as being a baptismal duty that Catholics need to fulfil and that those who are not baptised Catholics can usefully contribute by being present and actively engaged.

Some prayer leaders are baptised Catholics and some are not – being a baptised Catholic is not a requirement of the role. Their role is primarily to enhance the prayer life of their class and the school. However, they may be called upon to help organise school Masses. During these times, only those who are baptised Catholics may **participate** in the Mass by exercising ministry, contributing to the delivery of Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.