



Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Person Responsible:	Headteacher
Last Reviewed:	Autumn 2025
Adopted by Governing Body:	Autumn 2025
Next Review due:	Autumn 2026

Thornleigh Salesian College

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

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.

Roles and Responsibilities

Form Tutors are expected to:

- Ensure that every school day begins with an opportunity for prayer and reflection during form time.
- Make use of the resources provided by the Chaplain to support prayer and reflection. Take ownership of the resources provided, reviewing and adapting them to meet the needs of the students.
- Create an atmosphere conducive to prayer, giving time for reflection. Foster and facilitate meaningful and active engagement and participation in prayer and liturgy by the students.
- Give students responsibility for preparing and leading opportunities for prayer and reflection, including during assemblies, and support students in doing so.
- Fully support and emphasise to students all local, national and global fundraising opportunities, and in doing so fostering a spirit of generosity and compassion.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with students, for example during assemblies.
- Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities.

Pastoral Leaders are expected to:

- Actively promote and celebrate the Catholic life and Salesian values of the school with all students.
- Support form tutors in providing students with daily opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- Prepare and lead regular assemblies which centre around the gospel values.
- Give students responsibility for preparing and leading opportunities for prayer and reflection, including during assemblies, and support students in doing so.
- Ensure that the achievements of individuals and groups are regularly celebrated in these assemblies, notices and announcements to allow explicit reflection on God Given gifts and talents.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with students, for example during assemblies.
- Monitor the quality of prayer and liturgy within form time alongside the year group SLT link.
- Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities.

The Chaplain and Catholic Life of the School Lead is expected to:

- Actively promote and celebrate the Catholic life and Salesian values of the school with all students, staff and stakeholders.
- Support form tutors in providing students with daily opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- Prepare and provide resources to support the wider staff body in leading prayer and liturgy.
- Prepare and lead regular assemblies which centre around the gospel values.
- Give students responsibility for preparing and leading opportunities for prayer and reflection, including during assemblies, and support students in doing so.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with students, for example during assemblies.
- Monitor the quality of prayer and liturgy within form time alongside the Behaviour and culture.
- Work in partnership with home, primary partners, parish and diocesan communities.
- Develop suitable activities to mark and celebrate the major feasts and seasons of the Church.
- Ensure that school environments and displays reflect the schools' Catholic Christian identity.
- Quality Assure Prayer and Liturgy across the school.

The Senior Leadership Team are expected to:

- Actively promote and celebrate the Catholic life and Salesian values of the school with all students.
- Model respectful and meaningful engagement in prayer and liturgy during all interactions with students, for example during assemblies.
- Create an atmosphere conducive to prayer, giving time for reflection.

- Foster and facilitate meaningful and active engagement and participation in prayer and liturgy by the students.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of prayer and liturgy and strategically plan for its continued development.
- Support Pastoral Leaders and other staff in the implementation of this policy providing training as required.

Governors are expected to:

- Monitor the implementation of this policy through link governor meetings with the Headteacher and Lead Staff.
- Discuss the Catholic Life and Salesian values of the school and prayer and liturgy as a standing item at Governing Board meetings
- Attend whole school acts of prayer and liturgy where possible.

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 Friday during the afternoon registration 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 Wednesday 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

Environment

- Every opportunity should be taken to display the distinctive Catholic and Salesian nature of the school throughout the building.
- The school chapel is designated a sacred space and is a place all can go to celebrate and participate in acts of worship. Its situation in the centre of school identifies the chapel as central to prayer life within the daily life of the school.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Prayer and Liturgy

The Chaplain has overall responsibility for the planning of prayer and liturgy across the school, including the provision of suitable resources to support prayer and liturgy. Weekly themes linked directly to the liturgical year and to scripture are in place, around which all acts of prayer and liturgy centre. There is a meaningful opportunity for prayer and liturgy at the start of every school day, when the School Prayer is said by all during registration.

Staff Training and CPD

The main points of contact for staff seeking support in leading and facilitating prayer and liturgy are:

- The Chaplain (Fr Saju John)
- Catholic Life of the School (Dan Antonio)
- The Subject Leader for Religious Education (Father Steven)

These staff seek to provide ongoing support to colleagues. In addition, CPD time dedicated to prayer and liturgy has been identified and prayer and liturgy also forms a central part of the induction programme for new staff. All SLT members have been trained by Father Steven in the delivery of effective prayer.

Quality Assurance

At Thornleigh Salesian College, quality assurance for the prayer and liturgy policy is embedded within the school's cycle of self-evaluation and planned improvements. Leaders and governors prioritise regular review and evaluation of the policy to ensure it remains fit for purpose and accessible to all relevant staff. The impact of prayer and liturgy is systematically monitored through gathering the voices of students, staff, and other stakeholders, ensuring that experiences of prayer and liturgy are engaging, meaningful and reflective of the Catholic Salesian ethos. Resources, including time, staffing, and facilities, are allocated strategically to support consistently high-quality prayer and liturgy across the school. This ongoing process guarantees that prayer and liturgy remain central to the school community's spiritual life, fostering active participation and deepening the faith experience of all students as they grow in understanding and confidence.