



# **Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company**

## **Prayer and Liturgy Policy**

Responsible for Policy	Marina Kelly
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1.0	Draft	03/2021	J Parry	HCCMAC, Central Team	Creation of draft document
1.1	<b>Approved</b>	31/03/2021	J Parry	HCCMAC, Central Team	
2.0	Draft	05/2024	K Ainsworth	Director, HCC MAC	P and L policy reviewed and amended to reflect policy within the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
3.0		15.5.2024			Submitted to MAC Board for approval.
3.1	<b>Approved</b>	22.5.2024	K Ainsworth	Director, HCC MAC	Document revised in line with new P and L Directory (shared with LGB SuT2 2024)
4.0	Draft	24.9.24	C Carey Fr Benedict	St Augustine's staff Governor	7.0 Prayer and Liturgy in St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

## Prayer and Liturgy Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Catholic schools aim to be places where love of one's neighbour is obvious at all times. As St. John reports, Christ said to His disciples at the Last Supper 'This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you'.
- 1.2 Catholic schools are staffed by teachers and support staff who are not only qualified and expert in their own field but who also, having freely chosen to work in a Catholic institution, commit themselves to care for and support each other in every way possible consistent with the teachings of Christ, Gospel values, Catholic doctrine, and the ethos of the school.
- 1.3 All members of our school communities have a duty to ensure that Gospel values underpin the relationships within the school and should draw on the guidance offered in 'Christ at the Centre'. Whilst not definitive, the core values based on the Beatitudes may be summarised as follows:
  - faithfulness and integrity;
  - dignity and compassion;
  - humility and gentleness;
  - truth and justice;
  - forgiveness and mercy;
  - purity and holiness;
  - tolerance and peace;
  - service and sacrifice (Christ at the Centre' 2008 Fr Marcus Stock STL MA).
- 1.4 This policy will be applied in accordance with statutory regulations for the governance of Holy Cross schools which may apply at any time in accordance with the procedures and delegations adopted by Holy Cross Catholic MAC under those regulations.
- 1.5 This policy is for use by Holy Cross Catholic MAC and some academies' governance terminology differs within Archdiocesan Multi Academy Companies. This policy uses the term Director to represent Trustees of the Company. The term Local Governing Body is used throughout.

### 2. Holy Cross Catholic MAC Mission and Aims

- 2.1 The **Mission** of *Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company* (the '**MAC**') is:

*Our school communities are united as the family of God to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all our pupils. With Christ at the*

*centre of all we do, we will inspire every child to be the best person they can be by developing their God-given gifts and talents.*

2.2 The main aims of the MAC are:

**High aspirations** for all

**Outstanding education** - creating an ethos of collective responsibility, through which the MAC will promote achievement and improve pupil performance

**Living out Gospel values** instilling a *Catholic ethos* in all our schools, with reconciliation and peace at the heart of all we do

**Young people** – developing our young people to be resilient and to make positive contributions to their parishes and our diverse and ever-changing communities

**Community** - strengthening and nurturing the Catholic life of our schools

**Realising talent** - developing pupils, staff and all other members of our academy for the benefit of the *Holy Cross* community and society generally

**Optimising resources** - realising best value by sharing assets, gaining economies of scale and making the most of what we have

**Standards** - maintaining the highest quality of Catholic education by ensuring accountability at all levels

**Service to God** - serving others in our school and local communities and in national and international communities in need.

2.3 Our schools are bound together by our motto:

*Achieving together in faith*

### 3. Rationale

Prayer and liturgy celebrate God's presence in our MAC community and in our lives, and lead us on the way to eternal salvation.

It is about giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with our creator, made possible through the saving work and example of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, to enlighten all, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, '*who opens the eyes of the mind and makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.*'<sup>1</sup>

**Prayer** has traditionally been described as 'lifting up of the hearts and minds to God' – it involves the whole person – our head as well as our heart. Communal prayer forms an essential dimension of life in a Catholic school.

**Celebrations of the word** are usually longer periods of time allotted to prayer where a larger number of people are involved – where there is a need for more formal structures, but which are not directly taken from the liturgical books of the Church, the common element being the proclamation of scripture.

**Liturgy** is directly taken from the liturgical books of the Church. The most familiar forms in schools are the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The liturgical books (such as the Roman Missal, the Lectionary and the Divine Office) set out the structure to be followed, the words to be spoken, the gestures to be performed and the symbols to be used when celebrating a liturgy. Prayer and Celebrations of the word have much room for creative freedom. Liturgies have some room for creativity and adaptation, but they have to be exercised within the parameters authorised by the liturgical books.

### 4. The context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

*'The celebration of catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'* (Marcus Stock (2012), *Christ at the Centre*, Catholic Truth Society, 23.)

### 5. Statement of requirement

The law requires all maintained Catholic schools to provide an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils, including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, schedule 20; Instrument of government, clause 2). Academies in England are required by their funding agreement and Articles of Association to comply with similar requirements (*The Mainstream Academy and Free Schools: Supplemental Funding Agreement*, December 2020; *Model Articles for Catholic Academies*, February 2019).

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<sup>1</sup> *Dei Verbum* – the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Vatican II 1965

The law requires all maintained schools to recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)). Sixth form pupils can choose to withdraw themselves from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1B)).

The school's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school, this means that times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

## **6. Responsibility**

### **(a) Governance**

The Directors, as guardians of the MAC's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is a (are) named person(s) responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the 'Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator')
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

### **(b) Headteacher**

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy

- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

### **(c) Prayer and Liturgy Co-ordinator**

Those responsible for prayer and liturgy ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is a daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy takes place regularly and fed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body(ies) to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure that they keep updated with best practice.

## 7. Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

Prayer and Liturgy in St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is practised through:

- Whole school Mass (at least monthly) led by children or staff
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation and individual Confession
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Adoration during Advent
- Daily Rosary during October
- Celebrations of the Word
- Remembrance Service during November
- Year group or key stage prayer
- Classroom prayers throughout the school day, including the Angelus after lunch (KS2), and a class prayer at the beginning and end of the day and before and after lunch.
- Class group prayer, celebrations of the word and liturgies in the Parish Church or other suitable place such as the prayer garden
- Staff collective prayer at least weekly
- Beginning all staff meetings with prayer
- Beginning or ending every MAC staff INSET day with Mass
- Starting every session with a prayer, often selected by the children
- Involvement in parish masses and liturgies, where the school community read from scripture, lead bidding prayers and serve Mass
- Praising God in song by leading singing at Mass and practising these songs during hymn practice.
- Visits from parish clergy to classes to say a prayer with the children

## 8. Planning and Content of Worship

Prayer and liturgy are planned to follow the structure of the liturgical seasons of the Church's year, the Liturgy of the Church, the RE programme, feast days and other significant dates in the School and Church year. Pupils are taught that prayer and liturgy are the foundation of our faith and its purposes is our sanctification – that "*in Christ the perfect achievement of our reconciliation came forth and the fullness of divine worship was given to us*".<sup>2</sup> Prayer styles are used which are appropriate to the age, stage of development of the pupils. Parents and parishioners are invited to participate in some celebrations.

## 9. Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy are central to the school's understanding of itself as a Catholic school, and this is reflected in the annual budget allocation and available resources, including staff time, chaplaincy provision, and dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy.

The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. Dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy will be furnished and maintained as such, and updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. Staff training and formation costs will be funded separately to ensure that all

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<sup>2</sup> *Sacrosanctum Concilium* - The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II 1963

staff are able to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

## **10. Training and formation**

All new staff will be supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs will be identified and addressed through training and formation. There will also be the opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

## **11. Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy will take place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, clergy, and governors. Areas for development will be identified and issues raised will be actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

## **12. Prayer**

Pupils are given experience of personal prayer by being encouraged to speak in their own way to God, and of communal prayer by being introduced gradually to formal words for prayer at the appropriate level.

We celebrate our relationship with God throughout the school day, therefore prayer and “sacred silence” are not confined to acts of collective prayer and celebrations of the word. We are conscious of children’s need for expression through speech, song, movement, art, writing and silence. We are aware of the importance of giving pupils a focus for prayer in each classroom.

## **13. Staff Prayer**

Staff pray together at meetings and briefings and Governors and Directors pray together at their meetings. Teaching and classroom support staff are expected to be present at, and participate in all acts of prayer and liturgy to ensure that they are fully part of the school worshipping community and can actively support students in their prayer and faith journeys.

## **14. Review**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the regular cycle of policy review conducted by the directors.

## Appendix 1 - Information on Prayer

### Why is prayer necessary?

Prayer is the foundation of Christian Life. Prayer is communication or communion with God. Through prayer we are drawn deeper into the life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself taught us the need for prayer. In Gethsemane as He prepared Himself for the climax of His life, Jesus received the strength He needed in prayer to His Father, "*Abba (Father)! Everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it.*"<sup>3</sup> At moments of His public ministry when those in need were pressing around Him, Jesus went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

*What is Prayer?* We can pray anywhere and at any time. The first step is to place ourselves, as we are, in the presence of God. The second step in prayer is to speak to the Lord, giving him praise and adoration, thanking him for the many gifts he has given to us and asking him for our needs. A third step is to be silent so that the Lord himself can guide the direction of our hearts.

*How do we Pray?* The best prayers come from the heart and may be improvised in our own words, times of meditation, may be taken from books of prayer or the psalms, or may be the prayers we have learned by heart. Children's experience of prayer and worship in school will have a deep impact on their spiritual development as Christians, and a love of their Catholic heritage which they can take into their adult life. Their love of prayer and worship must be continually developed and fostered.

In prayer we become aware of God's presence with us and his love for us. We listen to him in order to discover his will for us and express to him our gratitude, praise, love and adoration.

We can foster the children's life of prayer by helping them become aware of God's presence in their lives and his love for them, and by leading them to respond to him in a manner appropriate to their age.

Children learn to pray chiefly by sharing in the faith and prayer of adult Christians, especially parents, priests and teachers, therefore we believe that we should go beyond simply teaching them prayers; we should pray *with* them in their presence. We should encourage them to pray by themselves, especially in the morning and at night. There are many ways of helping the children meet God Our Father in prayer, some of which are:

**Prayers of Silence:** To help pupils to participate in prayerful silence and meditation, we can use various ways of focussing their minds on prayer. We can ask them to

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<sup>3</sup> The Gospel of St Mark, Chapter 14.

concentrate on an object, a picture, a lighted candle, some quiet background music, a religious symbol or by giving them guidance about what to think: "Let's think about..."

**Liturgies and Formal/Traditional Prayers:** "*Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them*".<sup>4</sup> As the children move through school they will be taught and introduced to the commonly used prayers and liturgies of the Church so that they are able to join in and participate in parish celebrations of Holy Mass, the Daily Prayer of the Church (the Office) and other liturgies and devotions. The introduction of many of the responses of the Holy Mass are incorporated into their classroom and assembly prayer and worship. Our aim is to help the children to develop a reverence and a positive attitude to praying.

**Praying through Music and Song:** Listening to reflective music can create an atmosphere conducive to prayer and reflection. The singing of hymns and psalms can be both reflective and joyful. "*Address...one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.*"<sup>5</sup> "*He who sings prays twice.*"<sup>6</sup>

In our schools, appropriate reflective music and singing are both used to facilitate prayer and as integral parts of prayer, celebrations of the word and liturgies.

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<sup>4</sup> Gospel of St Matthew, Chapter 18

<sup>5</sup> St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 5

<sup>6</sup> St Augustine of Hippo

## Appendix 2 – Common Prayers [Taken from Section 9.5 (pp72-78 of the Prayer & Liturgy Directory)]

### 9.5 Common prayers

This list is introduced in section 7.10 ('Common prayers').

Age phase	5–7 (KS1)	7–9 (Lower KS2)	9–11 (Upper KS2)	11–14 (KS3)
Prayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sign of the Cross</li> <li>The Lord's Prayer</li> <li>Hail Mary</li> <li>Glory be</li> <li>Grace before meals</li> <li>Grace after meals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Apostles' Creed</li> <li>An Act of Contrition</li> <li>Angel of God</li> <li>Come, Holy Spirit</li> <li>The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morning Offering</li> <li>The Rosary</li> <li>The Magnificat</li> <li>Act of Faith</li> <li>Act of Hope</li> <li>Act of Love</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Benedictus</li> <li>The Angelus</li> <li>Hail Holy Queen</li> <li>The Memorare</li> <li>Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you</li> <li>Eternal Rest</li> </ul>

#### *The Sign of the Cross*

*In the name of the  
Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen.*

The sign of the cross is both an action and a statement of faith. A physical reminder of our redemption in the cross and an expression of faith in the Trinity.

#### *The Lord's Prayer*

*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.*

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The Lord's Prayer 'is truly the summary of the whole of the Gospel'. (CCC 2761.)

### *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.*

The first part of the Hail Mary is biblical, drawn from Gabriel's greeting to Mary at the Annunciation and Elizabeth's greeting at the Visitation. The second part of the prayer has its origins in 15th-century Italy.

### *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 doxology is a short expression of praise of the Trinity dating back to the early Church. It is used extensively in the Liturgy of the Hours and in devotions such as the Rosary.

### *Grace before meals*

*Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which  
we are about to receive from your bounty.  
Through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.*

### *Grace after meals*

*We give you thanks, Almighty  
God, for all your benefits, who  
live and reign, world without  
end. Amen.*

*The Apostles' Creed*

*I believe in  
God, the  
Father  
almighty  
Creator of heaven and earth, and  
in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord,*

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.*

*who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was  
buried; he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead; he  
ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty; from there he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy  
Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the  
communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection  
of the body, and life  
everlasting. Amen.*

Based on baptismal documents of the 8th century  
but related to texts of an earlier  
origin.

*Act of Contrition*

*O my God,  
because you are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have sinned  
against you, and with the help of your  
grace I will not sin again.*

One of the forms of the Penitent's Prayer of Sorrow found in the Rite of Penance.

*Angel of God*

*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.*

The prayer is based on one by Reginald of Canterbury in the early 12th century.

### *Come, Holy Spirit*

*V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.*

*R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.*

*R. And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*Let us pray*

*O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did  
instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by  
that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and  
ever rejoice in your consolation, Through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.*

This prayer is a compilation of a number of liturgical texts drawn from the Mass and Office of Pentecost and the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit.

### *Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*

*Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the  
benefits which you have given me, for all the pains  
and insults which you have borne for me. O most  
merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may I know  
you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow  
you more nearly, day by day. Amen.*

### *Morning Offering*

*O Jesus,  
through the most pure heart of Mary, I  
offer you all my prayers, thoughts, works  
and sufferings of this day for all the  
intentions of your most Sacred heart.*

### *The Rosary*

*For each mystery or decade, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and the Glory be is recited.*

### *The Joyful Mysteries*

*(Recited Monday and Saturday)*

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)  
The Visitation (Luke 1:39–45)  
The Nativity (Luke 2:1–7)  
The Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–35)  
The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:41–52)

#### The Mysteries of Light

*(Recited Thursday)*

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)  
The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1–12)  
The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to Conversion (Mark 1:14–15; 2:3–12)  
The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28–36)  
The Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26–29)

#### The Sorrowful Mysteries

*(Recited Tuesday and Friday)*

The Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32–42)  
The Scourging at the Pillar (Matthew 27:15–26)  
The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:27–31)  
The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:15–17; Luke 23:27–32)  
The Crucifixion (Luke 23:33–38, 44–46)

#### The Glorious Mysteries

*(Recited Wednesday and Sunday)*

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1–8)  
The Ascension (Acts 1:6–11)  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–12)  
The Assumption (1 Thessalonians 4:13–19)  
The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 12:1; 14:1–5; Isaiah 6:1–3)

#### Prayer concluding the Rosary

*[Hail, Holy Queen, etc. as above]*

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

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

*Let us pray.*

*O God, whose only-begotten Son, by  
his life, death and resurrection,  
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,  
grant, we beseech thee, that meditating on  
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.*

### *The Magnificat*

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness; for behold, from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.*

*For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age for those who fear him.*

*He has made known the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted those who are lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel, mindful of his mercy, even as he promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.*

*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.*

Mary's song of praise was first sung to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:46–55). It is sung daily at Evening Prayer.

### *Act of Faith*

*My God, I believe in you and all that your Church teaches, because you have said it, and your word is true.*

*Act of Hope*

*My God, I hope in  
you, for grace and for  
glory, because of  
your promises, your  
mercy and your  
power.*

*Act of Love*

*My God, because you are so  
good, I love you with all my  
heart, and for your sake,  
I love your neighbour as myself.*

*The Benedictus*

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he has  
visited his people and redeemed them; he  
has raised up for us a horn of salvation in  
the House of David his servant, as he spoke  
through the mouth of his holy ones, his  
prophets from ages past:*

*To grant salvation from our  
foes, and from the hand of all  
who hate us, showing mercy to  
our fathers, remembering his  
holy covenant; the oath he  
swore to Abraham our father,*

*To grant that freed from the hand of  
our foes, we may serve him without  
fear in holiness and righteousness all  
the days of our life.*

*And you, little child, will be called the  
Prophet of the Most High, for you will  
go before the Lord to make ready his  
ways: to grant knowledge of salvation  
to his people by the forgiveness of their  
sins;*

*Through the tender mercy of our  
God, the Dawn from on high will  
visit us, to shine on those who sit  
in darkness, and those in the*

*shadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*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 Canticle of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, is taken from Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:68–79). It is sung daily at Morning Prayer.

### *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.*

The Angelus is traditionally said three times a day: at 6am, 12 noon, and 6pm.

### *Hail, Holy Queen (Salve Regina)*

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,*

*Hail 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 valley of tears! Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

The Salve Regina is one of the Marian Anthems sung at Night Prayer.

#### *The Memorare*

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*

A 16th-century version of a longer 15th-century prayer.

#### *Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.*

#### *Eternal Rest*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Based on the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for the Dead.