

# Corinda Graceville Parish Schools Liturgy Policy

## 1 Policy

**Christ the King and St Joseph's Primary Schools are a work of ministry of the Catholic Parish of Corinda Graceville. The Liturgy Policy affirms the Schools' 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 communities to practice and promote the values of respect, justice, dignity, love, truth, compassion, reverence, and wonder and awe. In line with each School's Mission the School communities proclaim, live and celebrate 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 2 to 6 (St Joseph's) and P-6 (Christ the King) will participate in the Parish weekday Mass (Thursday Corinda, Friday Graceville) on a rostered basis.

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

- Proclaiming the readings and leading the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation;
- Writing and praying prayers of general intercession; and
- Bringing forward the Offertory Procession.
- Preparing the Church environment, if appropriate for classes in attendance
- Providing a Thanksgiving Reflection, if appropriate for classes in attendance
- Preparing and participating in the hymns and sung responses
- Children from Years 5 and 6 will be offered the opportunity to be Altar Servers. Parent permission will be sought by the school and forwarded to the Parish for the purposes of training and rostering.

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

Once each term the School will attend and assist at a weekend Mass, usually the 9:30am Mass on Sunday for Graceville, and the 5:30pm Saturday evening for Corinda.

Students will:

- Assist with welcoming Parishioners to the mass.
- 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, Corinda Graceville Parish will coordinate programs for all Parish children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Penance. Both schools will support these programs by teaching about the sacraments (in line with BCE Religious Education Curriculum), promoting the programs within the school community and school staff attending and participating in Liturgies where appropriate.

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 School Staff**

- 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. Both schools' **Religious Education Program** and **BCE Curriculum Documents** are published separately and available on request.

## Annexure A – Program Whole School Celebrations

Celebration Type	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
<b>Masses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Thursday (Corinda) and Friday (Graceville) (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 Thursday (Corinda) and Friday (Graceville) (Classes in Years 2 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> <li>Prep classes attend Thursday mass with Yr 6 buddy classes prior to School-Parish Mass (by negotiation - St J's)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Thursday (Corinda) and Friday (Graceville) (Classes in Years 2 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> <li>Year 1 attend Thursday mass to support learning about parts of the mass (by negotiation - St J's)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Mass every Thursday (Corinda) and Friday (Graceville) (Classes in Years 2 – 6 to attend on a rostered basis)</li> <li>School Sponsored Parish Mass</li> <li>End of Year Community Mass</li> </ul>
<b>Liturgies (Non-Eucharistic)</b>	<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>Resurrection</li> <li>Pentecost</li> <li>ANZAC Day 25th April</li> <li>Feast of Nano-Nagle 26th April (CTK)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAIDOC Day (CTK)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remembrance Day (11<sup>th</sup> Nov)</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>Feast of St Joseph (19<sup>th</sup> March)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mother's Day</li> <li>DOLSH celebration (St Joseph's - last Saturday in May)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Mary of the Cross MacKillop 8th August</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>Feast of Christ the King (CTK)</li> </ul>

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

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