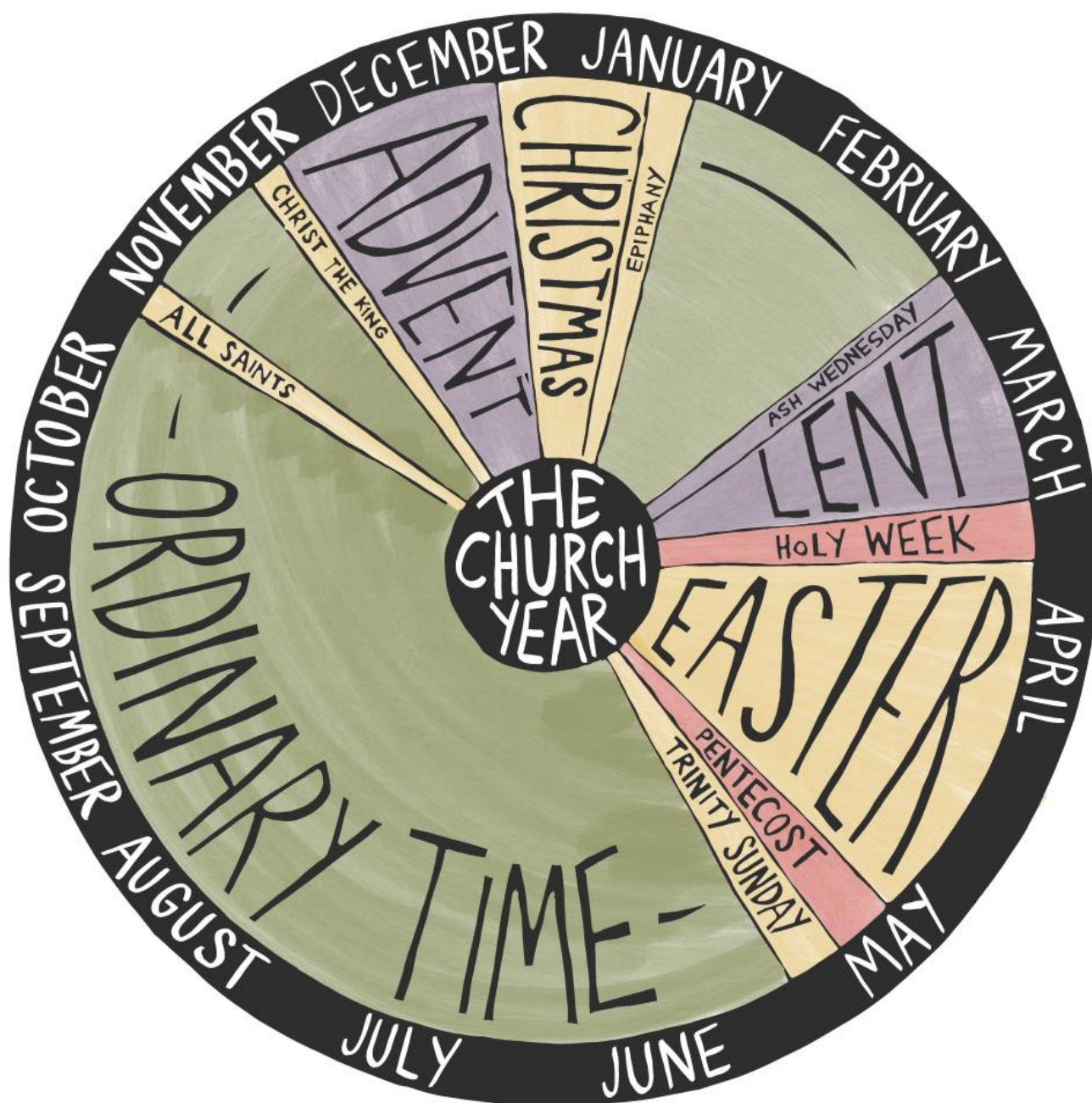




Sacred Heart RC Primary School

WESTHOUGHTON BL5 3DU

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



Sacred Space Guidelines

September 2024

The [Liturgical Year](#) is a cycle that unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and keeps the anniversaries of the saints. It includes the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Eastertide and Ordinary Time. Each season has its own character and gives time for the school community to reflect on and celebrate different aspects of Catholic belief in Jesus.

The seasons and feasts of the Liturgical year are celebrated in school, detailed in our Annual Plan of Provision for Prayer & Liturgy, and taught through our Religious Education curriculum, and should be visible through class and whole school '*Sacred Spaces*'. Spaces that reflect the liturgical season should include the colour of the season, image of Christ and any signs or symbols relating to that season, and may also contain a pertinent quotation from scripture, from a Saint or Church teaching.

Signs of our Catholic identity are additionally prominent in our classrooms all year round. A crucifix; the allocated Station of the Cross; and image of the class-chosen saint should be visible in every classroom.

The Sacred Space is a focus for daily prayer that is Christ-centred, including colours, objects and scriptures relating to the liturgical season. This space is to be distinct from RE work. It should be simple and uncluttered with one object that clearly communicates the theme of prayer rather than a collection of various items built up over time.

Placement:

The Sacred Space must be located in a visible, accessible, and respectful location within the classroom, avoiding areas prone to damage or where it might be easily disturbed. As it is a focus area, it should not be at the back of a classroom.

Child Involvement:

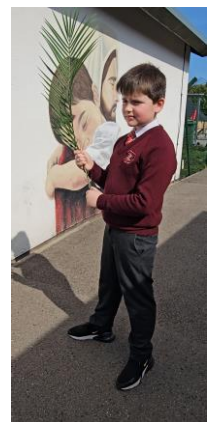
Children can be involved in setting up, repurposing, and maintaining the Sacred Space, fostering a sense of ownership.

Focus for Prayer:

The Sacred Space can include a class prayer book or one that children add their prayer intentions to.

Respect:

The importance of maintaining the Sacred Space in good condition must be prioritised.



“Dear children, our hands are a symbol for our hearts and only open, generous hearts can change the world.” *Pope Francis*

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Items: – Sacred Spaces at Sacred Heart contain the following:

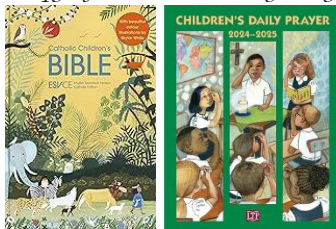


- Cloth – in the correct liturgical colour for the liturgical season
- Priest Peg Doll with chasuble in correct liturgical colour for the *next* Sunday.



PURPLE	RED	ROSE/PINK	GREEN	WHITE/GOLD
Penance Preparation	Sacrifice	Anticipation	Hope, Life and Growth	Joy and Purity
Used during Advent and Lent.	Used during Passion Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost and the feast of the Apostles and martyrs.	Used on the third Sunday in Advent and the fourth Sunday during Lent.	Used throughout Ordinary Time.	Used during Easter and Christmas seasons and feasts of the Blessed Mother, angels and saints who weren't martyred.

- ESV/CE Catholic Children's Bible – the Word of God is given prominence. Turned to the Gospel reading for next Sunday (or occasionally a relevant other day e.g. Ash Wednesday, Holy Day etc.) *Every class has been allocated a copy of the ESV/CE Catholic Children's Bible. KS2 classes also have a copy of Children's Daily Prayer 2024-2025 (Jonathan F. Sullivan) which should be bookmarked at the relevant page.*



- Candle - Candles remind us that Jesus is amongst us and is the Light of the World. Light the candle during prayer times. Consider having an incense stick to light during prayer.
- Crucifix – This may be the class designed cross; or a simple crucifix showing Christ.
- Sacred image – class chosen saint – image, statue or prayer card.
- One other item – reflective of the current focus for prayer (e.g. Season of Creation – fruit or globe; Advent – Nativity scene; Lent – sand or crown of thorns; October / May – Rosary or appropriate Our Lady statue; Pentecost – fruit of the Spirit or dove; Image – Saint or Pope etc. or a person we are holding in prayer).
- Round basket – Prepared by children each week (in planning conversation with the lay-chaplain) with simple focus on that week's Gospel.
- Celebration of the Word planning record book (and perhaps a class prayer intention log or prayer book)
- Care for Creation pledge (prepared on move-up-day).



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Pope Francis emphasises the importance of teaching children how to pray, stating that prayer sows life and is a seed of dialogue with God. He encourages children to pray to God as Jesus did, calling him "Abba," meaning "Daddy," and to listen to the Our Father, not just say the words. He also highlights the secret of prayer being its ability to fill hearts with light and warmth.



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Prayer sows life:

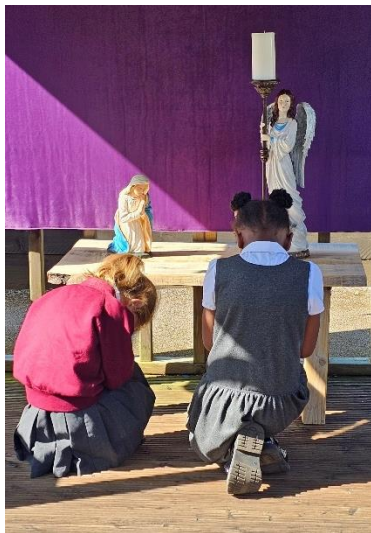
Pope Francis believes that prayer is a chain of life, with those who pray sowing seeds of life for others, including children.

Teaching children to pray:

He stresses the importance of teaching children to pray, mentioning that even the simple act of making the sign of the Cross is a vital starting point.

Prayer as dialogue with God:

He emphasizes that prayer is a dialogue with God, a way to open the door to God's presence and transform hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.



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Prayer with Jesus:

Pope Francis encourages children to pray to God, as Jesus did, calling him "Abba," which means "Daddy" in Jesus' language.

Prayer and hope:

He connects prayer with hope, inviting children to actively participate in building a more just and peaceful world by praying and listening to the Our Father.

Prayer as a secret:

He describes prayer as a secret that fills hearts with light and warmth.

Listening to children:

Pope Francis also encourages world leaders to listen to children's voices, not just their words, but also their silences and expressions, to build hope for a better future.



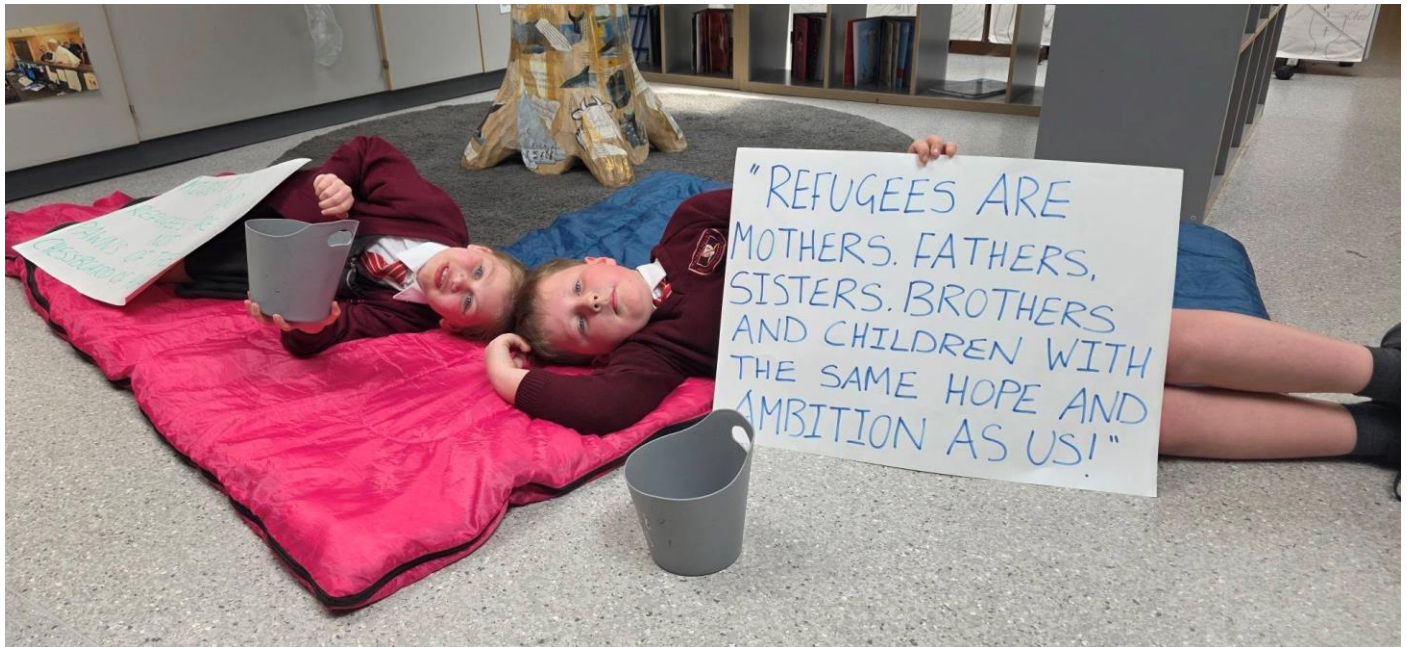
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Sacred Space Guidelines

This guidance has been approved and adopted by the governing board on 18th September 2024 and will be reviewed in Autumn Term 2025.

Signed by the Chair of Governors:

Signed by the Headteacher:



‘Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions... Love one another!’



LOVE ONE ANOTHER



**‘So that, in all things that we think, say and do,
God may be glorified.’**



LOVE ONE ANOTHER



**‘Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust
in You...’**



LOVE ONE ANOTHER