



## **Child -Led Collective Worship Guide**

See also Diocese of Leeds 'Collective Worship. Guidelines on Nurturing Collective Worship in a Primary School'

## Collective Worship

- Worship remembers and celebrates the marvellous things God works in our lives. It celebrates God's presence in our lives. Worship should not feel like an interruption from a different world. It is a spontaneous response to life.
- Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.
- Worship will be at the very heart of every Catholic school and must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

**The Structure:** Your collective worship session is going to follow the liturgical structure: gather, listen, respond and mission.

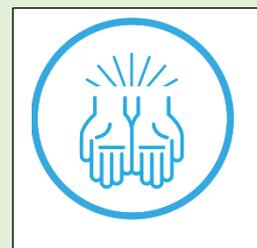
### Welcome/Gather

#### 1. Prepare your sacred space.

You will need to create a focal point to help your classmates focus during the prayer. Your sacred space should be related to the theme of your worship or the liturgical year. Think about the purpose and meaning by the objects that you place in your sacred space.

What can we include on our sacred space?

- Tablecloths relevant to the liturgical year.
- Relevant images or artwork.
- Handmade decorations related to the theme of your worship.
- A crucifix
- A candle
- Flowers
- Special objects
- A Bible



#### 2. Think about ways to gather your classmates together and put them in a calm mindset so that they are ready to pray to God and reflect on their lives.

What can we do to gather our class together?

- Play reflective music or sing a relevant hymn.
- Change the lighting to create a different, calmer atmosphere.
- Light a candle to remind your classmates of God's presence.
- Ask children to sit in a circle, a semi-circle or in lines.
- Think about if there is another safe space in your school where you could gather your classmates together, e.g. a prayer garden
- Lead a breathing exercise to help your classmates prepare for prayers.
- Sound an instrument until everyone is seated and calm e.g. a triangle or Indian bell.

## Listen/ Word

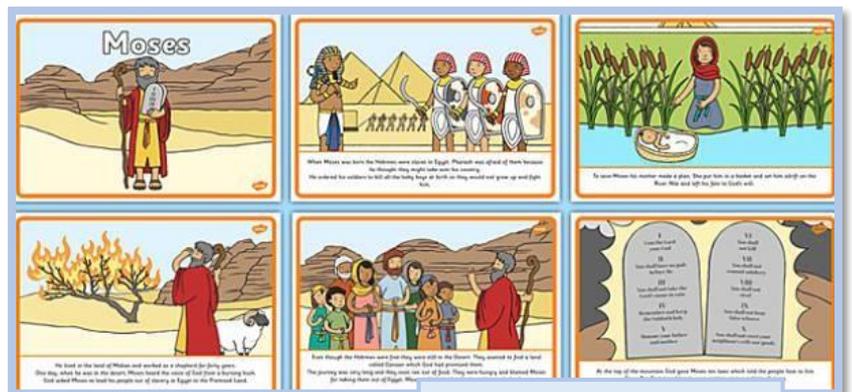
- You now need to choose a Scripture from the Old or New Testament. This can be a whole reading or just a couple sentences.** Remember, the Scriptures are the primary source of faith and special sign of God's presence, so this is a very important part of your collective worship.
  - Choose a reading from the 'themes' section. You may want to use your own reading related to a theme.
  - If you are leading collective worship around Holy Week, Easter, Lent or Christmas then you may want to choose a reading from the 'Liturgical Year' section.
  - You could read a parable or even the Sunday gospel from the Wednesday Word.
- Add some creativity to your reading.** You may wish to read the Scripture in a different way so that your classmates really understand the meaning behind it and remember it for a really long time so that they can apply the teaching to their own lives.

What can we do to creatively share the Word of God?

- Create a PowerPoint of a series of images to tell the story from the Scriptures (a little bit like a storyboard).
- Act out the story.
- Mime the story as it is read.
- Tell the story in your own words.
- Section the reading with your group- take it in turns to read the story together.
- Use the story as guided meditation. Before you begin reading the story, ask your classmates to imagine that they are a key person in the reading. Afterwards, you can ask your classmates what they heard and saw, how they felt and what they thought of Jesus.
- Use puppets to tell the story.



Handmade Scripture puppets



Pictorial storyboard

### Worship/Pray/Response

This is a very special time as you are asking your classmates to respond to the Word of God that has just been read to them.

1. **Give your classmates some quiet time to reflect on the Scripture.** You could play some quiet music or play an instrument in the background.
2. **Ask your classmates a couple thought-provoking questions.**
  - Do you think this Scripture has a moral?
  - How do you think \_\_\_\_ felt when \_\_\_\_?
  - How do you think this teaching applies to your own life?
3. **Prepare a reflective response activity.** Symbolism is very important here- everything should have a clear meaning.
  - Ask the children to write or think of a personal prayer related to the theme.
  - Give each child an object (e.g. stone) and ask them to say a prayer to God sharing a worry or gratitude, for example. You could create a class mountain using the stones and this could be displayed on your prayer table as a reminder all week.
  - Children could each say one word that comes to mind after reflecting on the Scripture e.g. Honesty, Grateful.
  - Hand each child a teaspoon of salt. Ask them to prayer to God asking Him to forgive them for a particular sin or help them with a worry. They can place their salt in water and watch as the salt dissolves- reminding them that God will take away your sins and worries.
  - Add prayer to class prayer book.
  - Use cut out shapes e.g. hearts, people, stars to write prayers and thoughts on.
  - Draw a scenario/ image.
  - Ask each child to say something nice and complimentary about another classmate- you can do this in a clockwise formation so that everyone is involved.
  - You can make your response interactive. E.g. "stand up if you have ever...."
  - Plant seeds- watch as they grow overtime.



Displaying prayers on a cut out template.

“Gratitude glitter” in water. This reminds your classmates that successes and joys illuminate your life and remain with you throughout your whole life.



### Witness/Send/Go/Mission

This is also a really important part of your collective worship as you are asking your classmates to hold onto an element of the faith teaching in their daily lives. This could be something for them to do at home, school, in the parish, in their local community and in the wider community.

**1. Set a realistic and relevant mission for your classmates.** This should be something they can do to apply faith to life.

- Tell them to 'go forth' and share the teaching they reflected upon during your collective worship.
- Make a vocal promise
- Make an internal promise
- Invite someone lonely to play at lunchtime.
- Greet someone with a smile.
- Give out three secret compliments during that day.
- Say a prayer for someone in need.
- Do an action to show care for creation.
- Find a few minutes each day to thank God for their blessings.



Now that you have read through the tips and tricks of the liturgical structure, it is time to start filling in your planning sheet.

Turn over to the next page to see an example of completed planning sheet.

Pupil-led Collective Worship Planning Sheet		
Class/Key Stage/Whole School/ Other Worship	Leaders	
Date	Focus	
PREPARATION/GETTING READY		
	What we will do:	What others will do:
<b>Focal Point</b>  What will your focal point look like? (Describe or draw)  We will need:		
<b>Creating the mood</b> How will you create the right mood/ atmosphere as people gather to worship?  Music:  Lighting:  Seating:		How will you direct people as they gather and prepare them for worship?



THE ACT OF WORSHIP		
<b>Welcome</b>	Who will welcome everyone and how?	
	How will we introduce the focus of the collective worship? How can we link it to people's experience?	
<b>WORD</b> 	What Bible reading/s will you use?	
	Who will read/role play?  What prompts/props will you use, including ICT? Who will use them?	
<b>WORSHIP</b>	How will you respond to the Bible reading in a prayerful way? What do you want to pray about? How will you do it?	
<b>WITNESS</b> 	What message/s do you want people to take as they leave? How will you help them to do this?	
	What prayer will you share?	
	What will the final message be?  Who will say it and how?	



# 10:10 Overview Summer Term 2023

Date w/c	Assembly	Daily Prayers
Ordinary Time		
<b>5 June</b> John 3:16-18	<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b> God's love for us calls us to respond in faith by professing our belief in God the Father's son, Jesus, and the salvation that He has won for us. This profession of faith is a sign of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.	<b>Finding Fellowship</b> (2 Corinthians 13:11-13) God is a communion of love - 3 persons who love. St Paul reminds us how we are to love, be happy and know God's peace: by growing in perfection (virtues), in Charity (love of neighbour) and unity (share the same faith).
<b>12 June</b> John 6:51-58	<b>Living Bread</b> This week is Corpus Christi, where we celebrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Through the lyrics of the communion song 'Bread of Life' and an imaginative reflection, children will explore how Jesus is living bread from Heaven which feeds not just their bodies, but their souls too.	<b>Sharing Special Time</b> (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) In the Gospel this week, we hear Jesus declare, "I am the living bread... Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever." During the celebration of Mass we too can share in this living bread, so our focus this week is on preparing our hearts to meet Jesus in the Mass.
<b>19 June</b> Matthew 9:36-10:8	<b>Commissioned!</b> Jesus' compassion and care for us all should shape how we think and act (develop virtues) so that through His grace we can bring others to know Jesus.	<b>Mission Accepted</b> We are called by Jesus to be His disciples in our everyday lives.
<b>26 June</b> Matthew 10:26-33	<b>Hearts of Courage</b> Through a story about children who are scared of a thunderstorm, children will learn that everyone experiences fear, but that we can build resilience through gratitude. Children will learn that the greatest thing they have to be thankful for is Jesus, who frequently tells us, "Do not be afraid".	<b>Look Up</b> In this week's Gospel Jesus said to His disciples, "Do not be afraid." This is a message that helps us to remember that Jesus is always with us, helping us leave our fears behind and lift our eyes to Him. Each day the prayers look at different times we hear the words, "Do not be afraid," said in the Gospels, and help children apply this message to their own lives.
<b>3 July</b> Matthew 10:37-42	<b>Ready to Welcome</b> Jesus instructed His disciples (He guides them) repeating the word welcome – do we welcome Jesus into our lives just when we need Him, is He welcome at all times?	<b>Joy in His Name</b> (Psalm 88(89):2-3,16-19) As followers of God we find joy in His name every day - reflect upon how the names of God make us joyful and His justice makes us happy.
<b>10 July</b> Matthew 11:25-30	<b>A Time To Rest</b> Jesus' beautiful invitation, "Come to me...and I will give you rest," is the timely theme of this assembly near the end of the school year! Using music and poetry, this assembly encourages children to hand over their concerns to Jesus and to rest in God's presence.	<b>Holidays... Holy Days</b> (Matthew 11:25, plus verses from Psalm 34) The word 'holiday' comes from 'holy day', when people would be allowed time off work to observe religious festivals and feast days. Today, a holiday means any time off from our usual work. These prayers consider how children's 'holidays' can truly become 'holy days'.
<b>17 July</b> Matthew 13:1-9	<b>Look Back With Thanks, Forward with Hope</b> The end of the school year provides a perfect opportunity in this assembly to reflect on the things we can be thankful for and look back with eyes of faith on all the wonderful gifts that God has given us during the year.	<b>Who Are You Listening To?</b> Kindness, being thankful and being trustworthy are virtues that show a response to the justice of God - treat others as you want them to treat you.





To help remember  
a Gospel phrase

To write down  
an action

To write a  
prayer on

**What could I use a  
template for?**

To draw a picture  
on

To remember  
a key word

To name  
someone to  
pray for

To write a promise



