

# The Olive Branch

7.2.25

## New Beginnings

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: the Department for Christian Life and Worship, and the Department for Education and Formation have decided upon changes to Catholic Education. At Holy Cross we are embracing this with positivity as they are having a valuable impact on our children and their relationship with God.

There are three sections to our Catholic life at school. These are;

Religious Education

Prayer & Liturgy

Catholic Life & Mission

Each edition of the Olive Branch will cover an aspect of the new changes.

### Prayer & Liturgy

We now have a new policy in line with the Prayer and Liturgy Directory which will be statutory from September 2025 in all Catholic schools.

Our daily prayers have been updated and progress as the children go through school. Each day Prayer Leaders lead their class with daily prayers and can add their own intention if they wish.

Below are the daily prayers. You can also find them on the school website along with a video of the sung prayers.

## To love You more dearly

The Prayer & Liturgy Directory  
for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges  
in England and Wales



Prayer &  
Liturgy  
Directory

*'Our Lord Jesus Christ should be at the centre of every Catholic school. His Gospel is the reference point for its ethos and values; he offers the definitive example of the educator. Joining Christ in praise of the Eternal Father and united by the Holy Spirit in making intercession for the world through prayer and liturgy lies at the heart of the daily life of the school. The quality of the prayer and liturgy in school not only gives honour to God but forms the spiritual and ethical life of pupils and staff alike.'*

*Introduction - Prayer &  
Liturgy Directory*

## EYFS / KS1 Daily Prayers

### Morning Prayer - sung

Good morning, Lord we praise your Holy name, and thank you for giving us this lovely new day. (Repeat)

### Grace before meals

Bless us our Lord as we sit together  
Bless the food we eat today  
Bless the hands that made the food  
Bless us oh God  
Amen

### Grace after meals

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten.  
Thank you, God, for all our friends.  
Thank you, God, for everything.  
Thank you, God.  
Amen.

### Evening prayer - Nursery

We close our eyes and softly say thank you  
God for school today.  
Amen

### Evening Prayer Reception / KS1 - Sung

Now the day is over  
We lift our hands and say  
Thank you Heavenly Father for today  
We are sorry for the wrong things  
But glad about the right  
Keep us Heavenly Father  
In your love tonight

## KS2 Daily Prayers

### 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.  
Amen

### 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.

### Evening Prayer - 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.



Talk to God about  
everything. There's  
nothing He can't  
handle. Go to Him.

ephesians 3:12

## Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching forms a major part of our catholic life at school. It is embedded within the RE curriculum and is part of our Catholic Life & Mission.

Catholic Social teaching is not a new concept. Modern Catholic social teaching is said to have originated in 1891. Since then, teaching continues to give new life to the Scriptures and shape the Church's response to our modern world.



This edition is focused on the principle of Human Dignity.



**We are beautifully  
made in the image and  
likeness of God.**

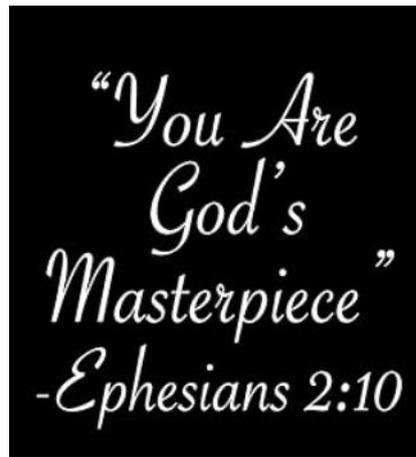
We are all brothers and sisters, knowing this means we must respect, value and

uphold a common dignity for ourselves and each other.

As human beings we are created in the image and likeness of God so therefore we have an inherent worth and distinction.

At Holy Cross we recognise the human dignity of others by:

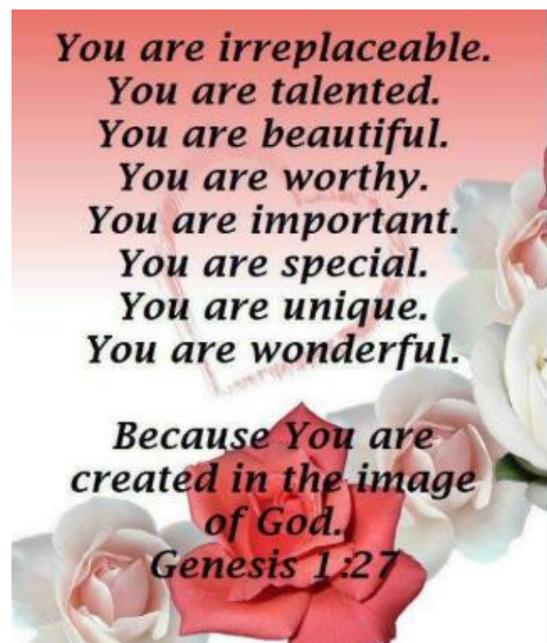
- being respectful
- treating people equally
- raising awareness of civil rights



“Every person is worthy of our giving...they are God's handiwork, his creation. God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object

of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives.”

**Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 274**



**Next edition: Child Led Collective Worship**

Faith Council launched the Jubilee Year on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January with an assembly. We have an exciting year ahead. There will be an event each month enabling us to be Pilgrims of Hope. Watch out for the first event coming up !

