

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 7th September 2023

At the start of this new academic year, we gather together as families across the Trust to give thanks for our Catholic schools. We rejoice that you have called us together in these places of prayer and learning, children, parents, teachers and support staff.

This Sunday is 'Education Sunday' – a special Sunday on which Churches of all Christian denominations give thanks for the gift of education and pray for all those who are committed to spreading the Good News through education of all forms.

Time to prepare

Gather together in a quiet space within your home.

We are going to be thinking about our Catholic schools – the places where we learn about our faith and about the world that God has created for us. Gather together a few items that remind you of school. Perhaps you could find an item of uniform or one or two of your school books. Place these in front of you. If you have a candle, ask an adult to light this with you and to stay with you whilst you pray together as a family.

Begin by making the sign of the cross together



Opening prayer

A prayer for Catholic schools

Thank you for the gift of Catholic schools. Thank you for all those who have given their talents to educating our children and young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them.

Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20

The Gospel for Education Sunday contains an important message for our Catholic Schools and Catholic families:

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Jesus tells us that when we gather together to pray, that He is with us. As Christians we believe that when we pray as a family or with our friends at school that Jesus comes to be with us and join with us. This is one of the reasons why times of prayer are so important in our Catholic schools and why we encourage families to spend time together in prayer at home.



Say together this final prayer for all of our Catholic schools:

Final Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our Catholic Schools.

Thank you for all those who contribute to the efficient running of our schools: support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and chaplains. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all those who lead our Catholic schools. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our children and young people can experience your love in their lives.

Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them.

We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord.
Amen.

Amen

Family Reflection

How can we make time for prayer at home, during busy family life?

- When is the best time for our family to spend a few moments praying together?
- What prayers can we say together? Are there prayers that we have learnt at school? Do we have special prayers that we have learnt from our families? Are there prayers that we use at Church that we could say together?
- Matthew 18:20 reminds us that Jesus is right there with us when we pray. Do we take time as a family to talk to Jesus about the things that are important to our family? The things that we are happy about, the things that worry us, the people that are special to us?
- How can we make sure, as a family, that there is time for us to pray together regularly at home?

Our Catholic schools try to mirror the Catholic home, that is why prayer is an important part of our life at school and should be an important part of our life at home.

Prepared by Mr. Wheatley,
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