

# St. Paul's Progression in Prayer Booklet



## **A guide to progression of prayer throughout the school**

- Prayer at St. Paul's is a vital part of school life and as the children progress through the school it should become deeper and more carefully thought out.
- Each class should have a prayer table with items relevant to their topic or the liturgical calendar.
- Prayer should be created in a 'prayerful' or 'worshipful' context. The act of writing or creating a prayer can be considered as worship. We want to make the sessions prayerful by reminding the children what they are praying for. Try to make the prayers more meaningful by giving the children the opportunity to suggest people they wish to pray for.
- **Traditional prayers that the children need to know (see year group prayer booklets):**
  - The Our Father
  - The Hail Mary
  - The Glory Be
  - The Act of Contrition
- **School prayers:**
  - The children should pray as they start their day, before and after lunch and before they go home
  - The prayers that each class say change throughout the school to show progression
- **Prayer Journals**
  - Each child should have an individual prayer journal which they will keep with them throughout the school
  - Each half term a new prayer should be written for the journal. These prayers should become deeper and more considered as they move throughout the school.
- **Ideas to develop prayer writing:**
  - Prayers generally fall into 3 categories – thank you, sorry and please
  - Prayers can link to the RE topics if an idea for a theme is needed
  - Try to encourage the children to make the prayers as individual as possible

## **Expectation of Prayer Composition: Reception – Year 6**

**All** – Know that a prayer begins with *'Dear God/Lord'* and ends with *'Amen'*.

**Reception** – Write a sentence saying thank you, sorry or please (mostly about family)

**Year 1** - Begin to write a series of sentences saying thank you, please or sorry.

**Year 2** - Write a series of sentences saying thank you, please or sorry – children should start to include more religious language and show reference to other prayers that they may know (see above).

**Year 3** - Children start to compose prayers, using sentences to form verses. Prayer should start to contain sacramental language – Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Forgiveness.

**Year 4** – Children should start to become aware of community and global issues and start to reflect these in prayer. Children should show an awareness that they can ask God to help them become better people (e.g. asking for greater patience). Children should start to use a variety of ways of opening and concluding their prayers such as:

- Let us pray....
- We ask God ....
- We pray that.....
- Today we remember....and so ask God to ....
- Heavenly Father... Lord, Jesus.....
- Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer
- Lord hear us

**Year 5** – Children should build upon the prayer styles they learned in Year 4 and form full verses, saying please, sorry or thank you. Children should begin to reference character attributes of famous Christian figures and saints (Oscar Romero etc) and ask for help in becoming more like these figures. Children should start to reference specific global issues –e.g. current natural disasters or humanitarian crises. To start to reference scripture in their prayers – Jesus taught us in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Forgiving Father) that God loves us even when at times we let Him down. Today we ask God to love us even more when we need Him the most.

**Year 6** – Children should build upon the prayer styles they learned in Year 4 and 5. Children should write fully formed prayers saying please, sorry or thank you. Their prayers should include by any religious language that they have acquired throughout their time at school. Children should confidently reference current global issues and prayers should allow for an aspirational tone, looking to the future with optimism.



# *Our Father,*

Who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil

*Amen.*

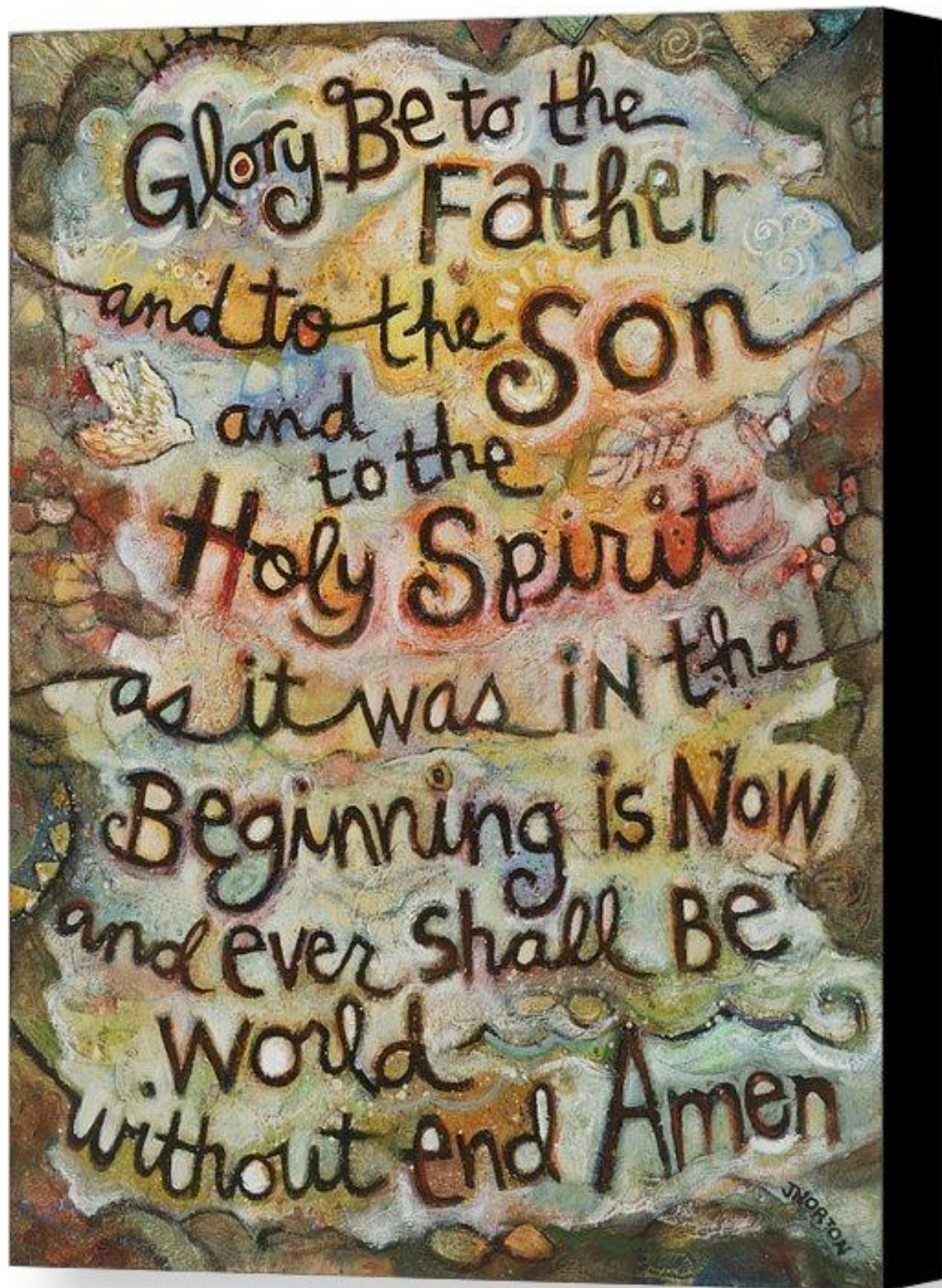
A decorative flourish consisting of two symmetrical, swirling scroll-like elements that meet at a central point below the word "Amen."

# *Hail Mary,*

Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death.

*Amen.*





Glory Be to the  
Father

and to the Son

and  
to the  
Holy Spirit

as it was in the

Beginning is Now

and ever shall be

World  
without end Amen

JMORON

O My God, because you  
are so good.

I am very sorry that I  
have sinned against  
you.

And by the help of your  
grace, I will try not to  
sin again.

Amen