

Annual Plan of Provision and Prayer Progression

A School Day which is surrounded by Prayer and Liturgy.

Our Daily Prayer is deliberately and purposefully planned to be working in harmony with the liturgical year, and it is engaging and accessible to all.

Our Celebration of the word, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter Liturgies give the opportunity to have a different shape to our day with our Grace Before Meals and End of Day prayer as a familiar pattern for prayer time. We offer a vast number of opportunities and experiences to pray and welcome guest speakers, NDCYS and the Vocations Team into our school family.

All students are encouraged to plan and deliver their Tutor Celebration of the word, lead whole school and Tutor time, and Parish and personal prayer time.



Advent/Christmastide

Events

- The Blessing of the Advent Wreath - Monday 1st December 2025
- SJH join St Thomas for Holy Mass in Advent
- SJH take 'Luce' on the Jubilee Advent Pilgrimage to Priory
- Parish Ambassadors attend mass in Advent - Sunday 7th December 2025 in Ilkeston
- Yr 11 Reconciliation Service - Tuesday 9th December 2025
- Yr 7 Retreat to Alton Castel – Monday 8th – Wednesday 12th December 2025
- Yr 9 Advent Raffle for Missio - Friday 12th December 2025
- Blessed Christmas Tree is added to SJH decorations and reflections - Monday 15th December 2025
- Christmas dinner with Grace and Carols - Wednesday 17th December 2025
- Friends of Saint John Houghton Advent Coffee Morning - Thursday 18th December 2025



Advent/Christmastide

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. In Saint John Houghton CVA, we aim to create a peaceful and reflective atmosphere throughout the school to encourage our school family to enter into the spirit of waiting and hope.

We encourage students and staff to consider the true meaning of Christmas and how they can prepare their hearts to receive Jesus.

We have a voluntary Advent Mass in school with Reconciliation and conversation.

We begin each day with a special Advent Prayer focusing and emphasizing the readings and themes of Advent.

Saint John Houghton CVA is decorated with blessed Advent Wreaths and purple fabrics and displays reflecting our anticipation of the coming King.

We have a 'Travelling Nativity' allowing our students to engage in the Nativity story in a personal way.

We have traditional Advent Carols and Carol singing and encourage our students to learn and understand their meaning.

We gather our school family for a Christmas Celebration of the word and enjoy a Christmas dinner as a school family.



Lent

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance and renewal. We journey with Jesus towards the cross. We reflect on our own need for forgiveness and pledge to deepen our relationship with God.

In Saint John Houghton CVA we work towards a calm reverence and reflective tone in our school, and we encourage all to engage in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

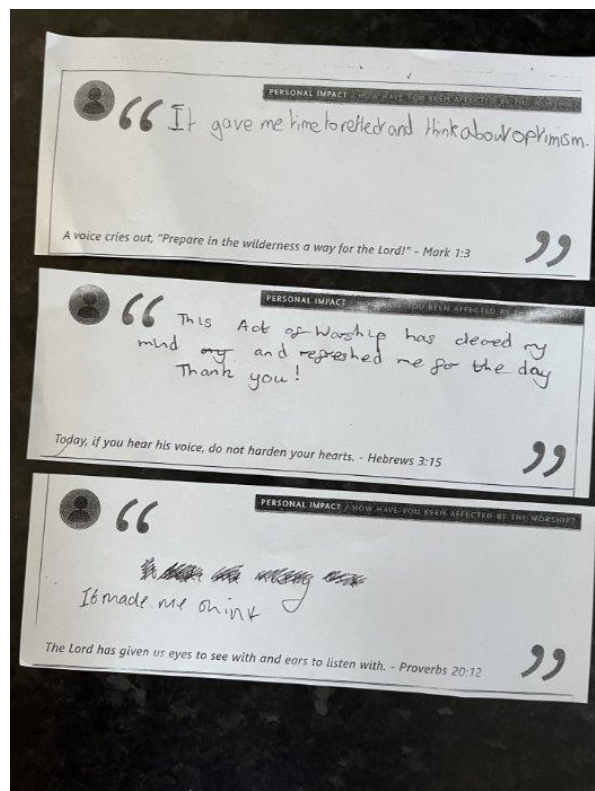
We gather as a school family to receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday and pay particular attention to Family Fast Days for CAFOD and reach out to our neighbours with faith in action.

Each day will begin with a special Lenten prayer focusing on the themes of repentance forgiveness and turning back to God.

We encourage and give all the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and positive conversations and Holy Mass.

Retreat Sessions in our Chapel give students time to examine their consciences and seek God's forgiveness.

Lent displays, Stations of the Cross and with purple or violet fabrics which symbolise penance and preparation help support a prayerful atmosphere in our school.



Ordinary Time

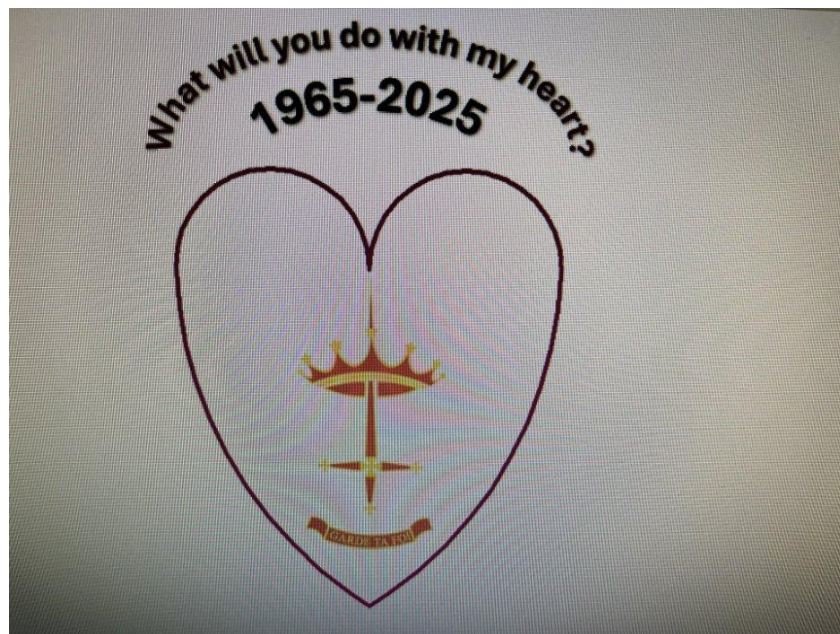
Ordinary Time is the longest liturgical season, offering us a time for growth and deepening our faith. We celebrate the ongoing presence of Christ in our lives and rise up to live out the Gospel messages in our daily actions.

In Saint John Houghton CVA, we maintain a calm and positive tone throughout Ordinary Time, we try to live our school virtues, we take time to share our faith with others, and we spend time in prayer and reflection reading and listening to The Good News.

In Ordinary Time we will use our Traditional Prayers of the Church, remembering that when we pray The Our Father it is our invitation to live as his children.

During our Daily Prayers and lessons and discussions we will include the Sunday readings and encourage all to reflect how the Gospel messages apply to our lives. During Ordinary Time we will focus on a whole school Mission connected to the Word of the Week.

During Ordinary Time our school will be decorated with green fabrics and decorations which symbolize growth and new life and where The Gifts and Fruits of The Holy Spirit are protected, seen and lived in our school day. Every success story in Saint John Hought CVA is underpinned by prayer and being open to God's love and work. Special attention is taken to our Eco and Prayer Garden during Ordinary Time.



Eastertide

Eastertide is a season of great joy and celebration, marking the resurrection of Christ. We celebrate the new life that Jesus offers us and rejoice in the hope of eternal life.

In Saint John Houghton CVA, we maintain a happy and positive tone throughout Eastertide. We give opportunities and encourage all to share their Easter joy with others and to live the message of the resurrection in our daily lives.

During the Easter Season Saint John Houghton CVA is decorated with bright colours with the Liturgical Colours: White and Gold symbolizing purity and joy. We have a Prayer Garden in Reception with Tutor Groups being led in Celebration of the word, with the focus of the resurrection and new life and growth.

Our school day begins with a special Easter prayer and 'The Glory Be' is a key prayer for our community during Easter, praising the Trinity and celebrating the resurrection.

Our Celebration of the word and Tutor Celebrations focus on the resurrection and the joy of Easter with music and light.

During Easter we have Holy Mass and Adoration.



Pentecost

Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. We celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit and our call to share the Good News with the world.

As a Catholic Family we will continue the upbeat and positive tone throughout Pentecost and encourage all to use their gifts to serve others and to share the Good News as missionary disciples in their homes, local community and in the world.

Red will be used in Saint John Houghton CVA for Pentecost moving onto green with symbols representing the fire of The Holy Spirit in school displays.

Our day will begin with a special prayer for Pentecost asking the Holy Spirit to be in our lives and call us to be witnesses to Christ.

Celebration of the word will focus on the Acts of the Apostles and the growth of the early Church with time given to all to reflect how the Holy Spirit is active in their lives.



Prayer progression in Saint John Houghton CVA

Prayers are said daily in school and there is no shortage of sources, old and new, and of course many of the best prayers come from the imagination and the moment. Staff and students in Saint John Houghton CVA are provided with prayers for particular purposes, which can be used as they are written, or as templates that are specific to the place or the event or the person which can assist clergy, young people and adults in giving thanks or seeking God's guidance and help.

Every child in Saint John Houghton CVA will have their own prayer path, our hope and desire for each person in our School Family is to have a longing for prayer, where the Traditional Prayers of the Church will open a time to encounter and the 'Arrow Prayers' will deepen their personal encounter and lead to a greater understanding of Lectio and Visio Divina and into a time of pondering with the Gospel of the Day and Taizé chants and guided silence until no words are required and prayer is 'heart to heart.'

Through Team Chaplaincy, The Faith in Action Award and personal invitations, all are welcome to join the SJH Prayer Groups, all are encouraged to pray together, in small groups and alone. As part of the Saint John Houghton CVA introduction and induction all are introduced to the Traditional Prayers, The Creed and engage in 'Understanding the Mass'. All are given opportunities to develop prayer practices, for example attending The Briars, SJH Mission and Retreat Days, Pilgrimages to Walsingham, Beauvale, Lourdes and Rome and we give time for Mission and Retreat Days in the school day. Daily encounters and living out the school virtues see leadership in prayer and spiritual growth journeying to a maturing of faith and spiritual leadership skills. Music, chants, hymns and spiritual journaling are taught and offered in Saint John Houghton CVA with theological liturgy and leadership in liturgies flourishing. All are welcome to join the Sacramental journey from RCIA to the young persons RCIA to Confirmation and Vocations.

Staff pray for our students; Mass is offered for our school. 'I am with you always close by, ready to help. Yes, forever until the end of time.' Matthew 28:20

