

Spirit of the Season

Summer 2005

Liturgical Year A

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS

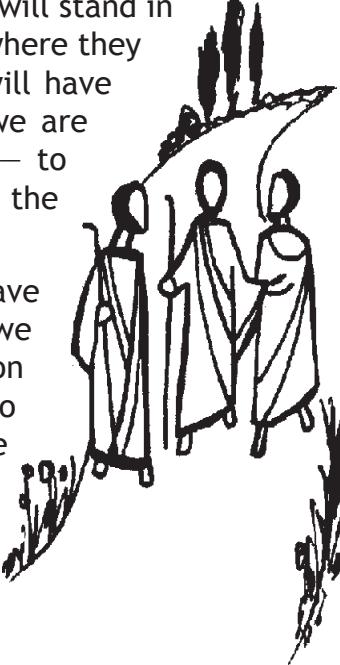
Real Value

When we come to the end of things we think about the next stage. At the end of the school year we begin to think ahead – maybe to where the children will stand in the playground next year different to where they were in Autumn 2004. We, ourselves, will have changed. At the end of each liturgy we are sent to change, to make a difference – to be Christ in the world as members of the baptised this is our mission.

When we look back at the liturgies we have celebrated over the last school year we may choose, in the light of this series on the front page of *Spirit of the Season*, to reflect on the values that we show. We might use the school mission statement as a set of criteria for evaluating these values would be.

The Mission Statement may also provide a basis for planning liturgy for the coming year. The values and ideas it expresses – how are these brought to life in liturgy? If, for example, there is an emphasis on the school as a place of welcome – how do we welcome people in our liturgies? Perhaps there could be a set of liturgical criteria drawn up from the Mission Statement that could provide a checklist for those preparing and evaluating liturgy.

- What are the values of our school?
- How are they expressed in the liturgy?



Classroom Prayer for the end of term

Lord,
you have filled
these children
with the desire
to become
perfect Christians.



As they grow in wisdom
and knowledge,
respond to their hopes
and answer our prayers.

We ask this through Christ
our Lord.
Amen

FAQ

Where do I find resources
to respond to world
events in prayer?

The Liturgy Office website has a section of Resources that aims to include prayer ideas to respond to major events.
[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/
Resources](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources)

The strong imagery of Eastertime presents a challenge for the prayer corner once, after Pentecost, Easter has ended. Ordinary Time begins again and green is, once more, the colour. Tidying away Easter allows us bring out the familiar prayer corner items.

After one week of green Ordinary Time, following Pentecost Sunday, on Thursday 26 May is The Body and Blood of Christ and it is back to gold and white. Another month and it is the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul on Wednesday 29 June and we are flooded with red, the colour of martyrs.

St Peter & St Paul

This holyday can be an unwelcome guest as the end of term approaches with all its needs and tensions.

This feast is best seen not simply as a celebration of two important saints but as saints who lived in a busy world trying to live the Good News of Jesus and share it with others. They are models of people of faith. You might find the Apostles' Creed a useful focus to work with. Each class/year group could present the Apostles' Creed as a large poster. Big enough for the whole class to read when wall-mounted or hung. These could be gathered together in the worship space for use in the Collective Act of Worship for the feast. Use lots of good strong red colour – the blood of the martyrs.

The Year of the Eucharist

Pope John Paul has asked for this year to be marked as a Year of the Eucharist. Our first way of marking the year should see that we celebrate the Eucharist well. In his Apostolic Letter *Mane Nobiscum, Domine* (*Stay with us, Lord*) the Pope recommends studying the recently published *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Teachers may find the Bishops' pastoral guide *Celebrating the Mass* a useful starting point.

In the last weeks of term you may wish to offer a Holy Hour for the staff as way of reflecting on the year that has past and a welcome oasis in its final days. There is a guide to Exposition on the website [www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources]. In a staff where a number are non-Catholic it may be more appropriate to offer a 'quiet time'.

Choose a reading, such as Colossians 3:12-17, from the readings for Various Needs and Occasions: in Thanksgiving (Lectionary III). Ask a member of staff to prepare a time of reflection on the last year perhaps structured around a common response of 'We give you thanks, O Lord.' Sing a Taizé chant or use some background music. Leave lots of time for silent reflection. At the conclusion of the prayer share a glass of wine together.

Exposition (Latin *expositio* – showing) The rite of placing the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance for worship by the congregation.



Benediction (Latin *benedicere* – to bless) The act of blessing with the consecrated host displayed in the monstrance, usually at the conclusion of a period of Eucharistic exposition.

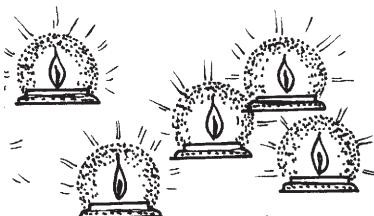
Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – Thursday after Trinity Sunday. Colour: White or Gold. This feast was formerly known as 'Corpus Christi' (Latin for 'The Body of Christ'). It arose in the thirteenth century as a celebration of 'Transubstantiation' or the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It was extended to the whole Church by Pope Urban IV in 1264.

Real Presence The teaching of the Church that Our Lord Jesus Christ is really, truly and substantially present in the Eucharist, that by transubstantiation, the bread becomes the body of Christ and the wine becomes the blood of Christ.

from *A Basic Catholic Dictionary* © Alan Griffiths published by Canterbury Press, Norwich. www.scm-canterburypress.co.uk



Be still and know



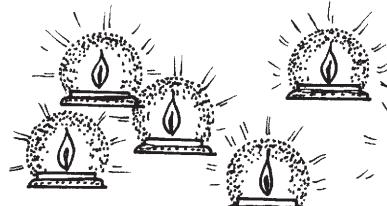
Through the year we have explored how use of our five senses is a way to participate in the liturgy.

Our participation begins as, through our senses, we see, hear, touch, smell and taste Christ in the symbols of the liturgy. It continues as we take our experiences of his sacramental presence to our hearts and minds, pondering on them and beginning to respond to them in prayer.

We need to allow time and space for this. A liturgy that is full of things happening, but which does not allow for deeper listening and personal prayer may very well be alive and active, but will not be truly participative. Nor is it likely to be fruitful, leading us to more faithful and more committed Christian lives.

Liturgy is not only about giving praise and glory to God, but allowing God's grace to renew us. For that to happen we need to develop interiority.

Developing a facility for quiet reflection in the liturgy can help us at other times of prayer and with other experiences in life.



Not all of life
is my doing.
Not every deed
is done by me.
Not all activity is my
own.

Yet

*I am part of all
that lives and moves
and has being.*

*I see the athlete
on the field
the dancer on the stage
the child playing
and something stirs
within me.*

*I know how it feels to do
what they are doing.
I, too, run and dance
and play.*

*The eyes are the window
of the soul,
it is said,
revealing what animates
and inspires me.*

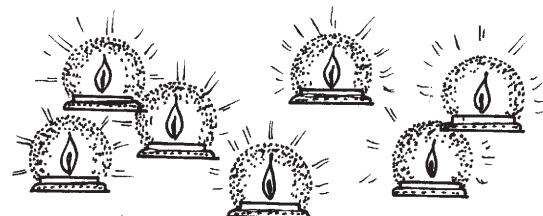
*The eyes are the bridge
between souls,
I say.*

*Watching, looking, seeing,
I behold the connection of
all living things.*

*I commune with the soul
which animates
and inspires the other.*

*Watching the liturgy
unfold,
I recognize the liturgy
within.*

*In the movement of others
I see my own stirrings.
I glimpse as in a glass darkly
the common liturgy of life
in which I share.*



Children need to be encouraged to know that 'joining in' doesn't always have to be active, or obvious to other people. We can participate by being still and allowing thoughts and prayers to come. We can participate too by seeing or hearing someone else do something we are familiar with ourselves, such as a dance, lighting a candle, washing hands.

Children are often remarkably adept at deep personal prayer, if we invite them to it, and offer them simple instruction. 'Let us be still and think about what we have heard, and where we would like the Lord to bring healing to our world, to our friends and families.' 'In the sweet smell of the incense we are reminded of the sweet smell of our prayer rising to God'. 'As we prepare the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer, let's spend a moment in quiet thinking of the good gifts of love and kindness we can offer to God' 'The Lord Jesus has given himself to us in this food and drink, so we might be so close to him. Let us quietly thank him for loving us so much'

Our words can help the children - and so can our example. The sight of teachers and staff praying, and not simply being on duty can be one of the greatest helps to the children's own prayer.

Barbara Schmich

Open to God

Over this year we have used this page to try and tease out some of the diversity of the community that gathers for liturgy in our schools. There is often a great diversity of culture and faith traditions, of ages and experiences. This diversity can enrich our schools, but it can also be a challenge to us when it comes to helping everyone's participation in the liturgy. It will especially be a challenge if we do not make use of the more 'open-textured' forms of celebration - such as Liturgy of the Word with Children.

One of the principal reasons the Church celebrates the liturgy is because it offers us something we need. It offers us a 'place' to meet with God, and a source of grace.

Liturgy is in part our work, giving praise and thanks to God, but it is also one of the principal ways in which God works to bring about the flourishing of the people he loves.

There is much in our human experience that is in need of God's love. Whatever our age, culture or faith, and whether we take an active part in parish life or not - we have our joys and sorrows, our hurts and our weaknesses. Sometimes these things are private to an individual, and he or she is able to bring them to the tenderness of God only in the privacy of their heart.

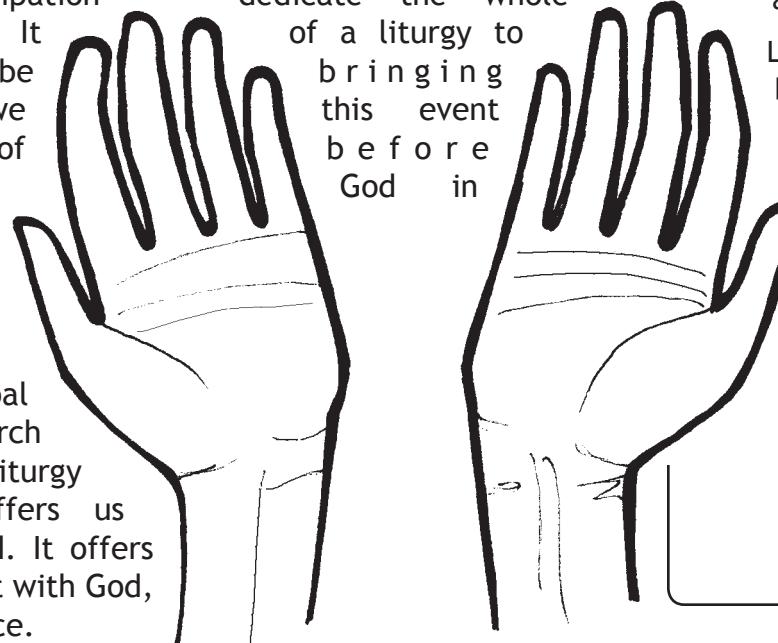
But liturgy is about something we do together. And often

we will know that there are particular things that ought to be acknowledged in prayer. Sometimes it might be in a simple way — perhaps the birth of a sibling, or a family bereavement forms the focus of a bidding prayer. At other times an event will involve the whole school community, and our response will be to dedicate the whole of a liturgy to bringing this event before God in

Open our eyes
to the needs of all;
inspire us with words
and deeds
to comfort those who labour
and are burdened;
keep our service of others
faithful to the example
and command of Christ.

Let your Church
be a living witness
to truth and freedom,
to justice and peace,
that all people may
be lifted up
by the hope of a
world made new.

*Eucharistic Prayer
for Masses
for Various Needs
and Occasions*



our prayer — for example the death of a child or a parent, or the welcoming of a new year's intake, or the leaving of a year's class for their new schools.

Sensitive ministering of the liturgy in a school respects our differences. It provides a way of building us up as a human community, and offers all sorts of invitations to us, as individuals and as community, to grow as a community of faith.

- What are the human needs we try to address in our school liturgies?
- How are those needs made known to us?

This issue concludes the series in this year's *Spirit of the Season*.

Back issues can be found on the web site:
www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS

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