



Reflective of our Catholic tradition

Prayer in School Advisory Council meetings should be reflective of our Catholic tradition and allow for reference to the school charism and mission, and the 'signs of the times' where appropriate.

Prayer at a meeting can be a contradiction in terms. Allowing time to discover the most important relationship there is – our relationship with God – seems at odds with the purpose of the gathering: the urgent need of the items of business.

Yet prayer gives us an opportunity to align these two purposes to see the work of the meeting as an expression of our relationship with God.

Traditional prayers – the Our Father, Hail Mary and Prayer to St Joseph the Worker – have a place here, remembering that prayer is a relationship, not a transaction, so if said with intent and not by rote, then the relationship is honoured.

Sometimes brief prayers will be apt, but at other times the council members may want to spend time on a more extended prayer, particularly if there has been something happening in their school community.

Some schools have a school prayer or prayer associated with a founder or patron that should be encouraged for use on occasion.

Lastly, the liturgical year and seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, as well as referencing the gospel reading of the day or the previous Sunday, are rich sources of inspiration within our tradition.

Daily Prayer

The extensive [Daily Prayer](#) resource in the 'Prayer Life' section of the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Religious Education website [RESource](#) is a portal into a rich source of prayer resources.

These prayers follow a gentle process of: gather, listen, respond and go forth. Their format models prayer structures that can be used in their entirety, or adapted to meet the needs or specific intentions of the School Advisory Council. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so may be used on any day, although special focus will be given to feast days, solemnities and days of special cultural significance.

We have only included the Daily Prayer link for your consideration as, while the internet can provide a far wider range of prayer resources, too many examples can become confusing. In short, we encourage you to use these resources if needed, but also consider that prayer is contextual and needs to be appropriate for our tradition.