



Prayer Book

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The Company of Mary Our Lady

Four hundred years ago Mary looked for someone who, in her name, would lend a hand to fill the tremendous gaps in faith, meaning and culture and she found just such a woman.

The outstretched hands of Jeanne de Lestonnac reached out to embrace the world and, ever since, the Company of Mary Our Lady endeavours to be a messenger of hope for all peoples.

Spread over four continents, its communities accomplish the mission of evangelisation as educators at the service of a faith which invites us to think, requires prayer, obliges us to take action and to bring forth fruits of justice.

**Criteria for Evaluating the Ethos
of Company of Mary Our Lady Schools**

VISION STATEMENT

We exist to promote improvement in learning and living
for the Greater Glory of God.

Finding God in all things

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School recognises that every aspect of its work can affirm the goodness and the presence of God.

Caring for the individual

- We focus on the all round formation of each person: “Well balanced heads, not full ones”.

Showing love in deeds

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School is characterised by generosity in service to others, particularly where human dignity is threatened: “Lend a helping hand”.

Building a Christian Community

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School fosters a faith commitment to Christ and prepares pupils for a further participation in the life of the Church. “It is the Community who educate” and “Keep the flame alive”.

Engaging with the wider world

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School helps pupils to be sensitive to the strengths and weaknesses in contemporary society and to witness to Christ’s presence in that society.

Encouraging excellence

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School is distinguished for its academic, religious and pastoral excellence, through which it encourages the fullest possible development of talents.

Co-operating in Company of Mary Our Lady Mission

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School works in co-operation with other Company of Mary Our Lady schools and ministries in the light of its apostolic and educational aims.

DISTINGUISHING CRITERIA

Finding God in all things

- A religious and ethical context is apparent across the curriculum and a sense of awe and wonder at God's goodness is evident in all the features of school life.
- There is an acknowledgement that all aspects of learning and teaching are relevant as ways of encountering and responding to God.
- A respect for all persons characterises the attitudes of staff and pupils reflecting the belief that God is present in the life of each individual "labouring for us in all things".
- Opportunities for theological reflection, days of recollection, short retreats, adaptations of the Spiritual exercises of St Ignatius are available to the school community.

Caring for the Individual

- The pastoral structures of the school reflect an ethos of care for all members of the school community. We are encouraged to strengthen the feminine character for the good in the world.

Showing love in deeds

- The quality of personal relationships within the school is characterised by a selfless generosity. This spiritual generosity is evident, for example, in concern for those in need and attention to issues of social justice.
- Adult members of the school community also demonstrate love in deeds by their professionalism and generosity in support of pupils, the school and one another.

Building Christian Community

- A Company of Mary Our Lady school proclaims its Catholic identity and strives to develop a faith commitment to Christ, and an understanding and practice of personal and public prayer, appropriate to the developmental stages of the pupils. "Keep the flame alive".
- A specific feature of the school is the priority given to chaplaincy provision serving the pastoral and spiritual needs of the staff and pupils. "Give a helping hand".
- Religious education is seen as a subject with comparable academic rigour to other areas of the curriculum and is resourced accordingly.

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School attempts to present clearly and honestly the fundamental beliefs of the Church in co-operation with the local diocese and the Universal Company. Whilst pupils are prepared for a fuller participation in the life of the Catholic Church, concern is also shown for the spiritual and religious development of non Catholic Christians and members of other faiths at the school.

Engaging with the wider world

- A Company of Mary Our Lady School enables pupils to understand the need to contribute actively to the wider society and affords opportunities to develop a commitment to the common good. This is obvious in the various projects. Not only does the school teach justice but it also acts justly, for example, in efforts to recruit, support, and retain pupils from families of limited means, or who require additional learning or other support.

Encouraging excellence

- The ambience of a Company of Mary Our Lady School is that all are encouraged to develop their talents as fully as possible and to use those gifts for others in the spirit of, "What more can I do, what more can I give?"
- Staff and pupils witness to excellence by their generosity in time and energy, in compassion and care of others, and above all in their diligence at academic work.

Cooperating in the Company of Mary Our Lady Mission

- The school has a clear mission statement consistent with the apostolic and educational mission entrusted to it by the Order. This mission statement is regularly monitored and evaluated within the school.
- The school is also seen to participate in the apostolic work of the Company of Mary Our Lady through evident adherence to Company of Mary Our Lady Educational Project, as well as through active links with other Company of Mary Our Lady schools and works.

Company of Mary Our Lady School Leaver Profile

- By the end of their time in a Company of Mary Our Lady School it is hoped that young people are:
- Developing and deepening a relationship with God, and are able to find God in reflection on their own experience.
- Happy, friendly and self-confident, with a sense of humour and an awareness of their God-given gifts and the need to fulfil their potential for good.
- Seen to have a generosity of spirit and a readiness to place their talents at the disposal of others, especially the most needy.
- In the process of deepening their understanding of who Christ is and of the living out their faith more fully.
- Well prepared to take their place in wider society unmotivated by prestige or selfish ambition and aware of how fully they can contribute to the common good.

- Ready to ask “What more can I do, what more can I give?” in every area of life.
- Proud of having belonged to a Company of Mary Our Lady School Community with respect for its values and those who taught them.

Company of Mary Our Lady Mission

It guides you

Has a focus for Evaluation

It is a sign to the local community and staff to each other.



Simple Prayers

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hail Mary

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Glory Be

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.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.

He shall come to judge the living and the dead

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life ever lasting. Amen.

Act of Faith

O my God, I believe in you
and in all that your Holy Church teaches
because you have said it and your word is true.
You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
You are my Lord and my God.
Lord, I believe; increase my faith.

Act of Hope

O my God, I put my hope in you
because I am sure of your promises.
Deliver us, Lord,
from every evil and grant us peace in our day
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Act of Charity

O my God, I love you with all my heart,
with all my soul, and with all my strength.
Lord, increase our love.
Help us to love one another.

Act of Contrition

O my God, because you are so good
I am sorry that I have sinned against you,
and with your help I will try not to sin again.

