

Liturgical plan themes, readings and prayers for 2023-24

<b>W E E K</b>	<b>Week com menc ing</b>	<b>Assembly / collective worship Theme</b>	<b>Scripture link to assembly</b>	<b>SMSC and CST links for the week</b>	<b>Prayer</b>
1	4th Sept	New beginning - Starting a new year	<p>"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6</p> <p>"When each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love." Ephesians 4:16</p>	<p>SMSC - Belonging CST - Call to family, communication and participation</p> <p>"Social justice implies that persons have an obligation to be active and productive participants in the life of society and that society has a duty to enable them to participate in this way." (U.S. Bishops 1971)</p>	<p>Almighty Father, as we begin a new year, may we use the opportunity to make a new start. Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith and give us the determination to work to become the people you want us to be. Amen.</p>
2	11th Sept	Introduction to values	<p>"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end." (1 Cor 13:4-8)</p>	<p>SMSC - Being a morally just person (International Day for the preservation of the ozone layer Saturday 16th Sept)</p> <p>CST - Dignity of the person</p>	<p>Creator God, you made us and we belong to you. May we not place our trust in things, but realise that we depend upon you for the rest of this day and for the rest of our lives. Amen</p>

3	18th Sept	Love	<p>"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35</p>	<p>SMSC - Valuing others</p> <p>CST- Dignity of the person</p> <p>"Love is also a virtue, a power that can be trained. Becoming braver and bolder, as well as more just and loving is a true challenge for every Christian." Docat</p>	<p>Lord, inspire me to give of my best and make good use of the talents you have given me. Show me how to be positive in attitude, appreciating and valuing others, always being ready to encourage and give praise. Amen</p>
4	25th Sept	Welcoming others	<p>"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:31-46</p> <p>"Let mutual love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1-3</p>	<p>SMSC-CST - Welcoming refugees</p> <p>Listen and look at 'Refugee Blues' by W.H. Auden and compare it to the experience of the people fleeing Ukraine.</p>	<p>Lord, Jesus told us that when we welcome others we are welcoming you. Help us to care for those who have left everything behind to escape a dangerous situation and be welcoming to strangers who join us.</p>
5	2nd Oct	Standing together	<p>"I appeal to you... that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10</p>	<p>SMSC - Little Way week</p> <p>CST - Solidarity/rights and responsibilities</p> <p>The word 'solidarity'... refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity...[it is about] community and the priority of the life of all...' Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)</p>	<p>O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us. Taken from a prayer by Thomas Merton</p> <p>Prayer of St Therese of Lisieux</p> <p><u>Prayer of St Michael</u></p>
6	9th	Celebrating	<p>"For by one Spirit we were all</p>	<p>SMSC - celebrating diversity</p>	<p>Fill us with your mercy so that we, in</p>

	Oct	black history month	<p>baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” 1 Cor 12:13</p> <p>“What are human beings that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them? Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honour.” Psalm 8:4-5</p>	<p>CST - Life and dignity of the human person</p> <p>“Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God’s image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the person they are.” Saint Pope John Paul II</p>	<p>turn, may be merciful to others.</p> <p>Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Taken from Xavier.edu</p> <p>“Before I formed you in the womb ,I knew you.” Jeremiah 1:5</p>
7	16th Oct	Harvest	<p>“Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” Matthew 13:1-9</p>	<p>SMSC - Harvest CST - Solidarity</p> <p>‘We are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.’ Pope Francis, Lenten message, February 4, 2014</p>	<p>Generous God, We thank you for the gift of food – For how it brings us together and nourishes us. We pray for those without, whose harvests and store cupboards are empty, Help us work together to share the world’s resources so that everyone can be fed. Lord of the Harvest, hear our prayers</p>
8	23rd Oct	Forgiveness and friendship	<p>“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:25-32</p>	<p>SMSC - Building better friendships CST - Community and participation</p> <p>St Augustine talked about how friends love one another; they share one another's joys and sorrows. "They enkindle themselves and they inflame one another." They find joy in being together to share ideas and enrich one another by exchanging their experiences.</p>	<p>Almighty God, there are times when we need to turn to you and seek your forgiveness; may we offer the same love and forgiveness to those who hurt us. Amen</p>

9	6th Nov	<p>We remember (remembering those who've died in war)</p> <p>11/11 Liturgy for Remembrance Day</p>	<p>"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5</p> <p>"When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you...?' '...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'" Matthew 25:37-40</p>	<p>SMSC - REMEMBRANCE</p> <p>CST - SOLIDARITY: PEACE "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." St Teresa of Calcutta</p>	<p>As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever. Amen.</p>
10	13th Nov	<p>Anti Bullying week</p>	<p>So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. Matthew 7:12</p> <p>"Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship." 1 Samuel 10:25</p>	<p>SMSC - ANTI BULLYING WEEK</p> <p>CST - RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>"The possession of rights involves their recognition and respect by other people." Saint Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth, 44</p>	<p>Lord may I grow in consideration towards others, honesty to myself and faithfulness to you. Help me to bring happiness not pain to others. Amen</p>
11	20th Nov	<p>World day of the poor</p>	<p>'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' Luke 14:15-24</p>	<p>SMSC - WORLD DAY OF THE POOR</p> <p>CST - OPTION FOR THE POOR</p> <p>'The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty!' Pope Francis, July 26,</p>	<p>We pray for all those whose needs for food, shelter and clothing are not met, that they may experience a more just and fair distribution of the world's resources. Teach us all to live more simply, that they may simply live.</p>

				2013	
12	27th Nov	National Youth Sunday  (Theme tbc by Bishop's conference)	"Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young" 1 Timothy 4:12	SMSC - UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY  CST: Human Dignity  "What are human beings that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them? Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honour." Psalm 8:4-5	Turn your loving gaze, O God, upon young people. They carry in their hearts a great hope: make them strong and pure, so that they can build their tomorrow with confidence. Taken from St John Paul II's prayer for the young
13	4th Dec	Hope	"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;" Psalm 130:5  <a href="#">Additional reading</a>	SMSC - Kindness brings hope CST -Family, community & participation  We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and a far-sighted vision. <i>Pope Francis wrote in a letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation</i>	All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven. Amen
14	18th Dec	Showing peace to your neighbour	"My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more" Philippians 1:4-6,8-11	SMSC - Peace through love  CST - Promotion of peace  Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars	God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that stop us from receiving Christ with joy. Amen

				which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty.' Pope Francis, September 20, 2016	
15	12th Dec	Joy to the world	"Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 12	SMSC - Faith is full of joy  CST - Called to family, community and participation  Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures. (Saint Teresa of Kolkata)	Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. Amen
16	8th Jan	Self-control	"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.." Galatians 5:22-26	SMSC - Self-control  CST - Rights and responsibilities  The Catechism speaks of self control in #1804 and it calls it self mastery. "Human virtues are firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions, and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. They make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life. The virtuous man is he who freely practises the good."	Lord God be my way, be my direction, most of all, be my love, keeping my vision fixed on yours.
17	15th Jan	Love of learning	"let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill." Proverbs 1: 2-5	SMSC - The value of learning  CST - Dignity of work  "Therefore, when human beings pursue their occupation, and already while they prepare for work as	Dear God, may we aspire not to have more, but to be more.

				children in school and later as young adults in training, it is not just a matter of being able to earn their own living. Through work, human beings have the privilege of contributing something to the positive development of the world. Thus man in a certain way participates in God's work of creation." Docat 136	
18	22nd Jan	Holocaust memorial	"Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:12-30	SMSC - the Bible CST - Dignity of the human person  "Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are" Saint Pope John Paul II	Lord, help me to speak out against injustice, hatred and racism. May I never be a bystander; but rather someone who works for a world where all are treated fairly and with respect. Amen.
19	29th Jan	Simplicity	"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21	SMSC - Living a simple life CST - Option for the poor  "Too many possessions keep us from God: the parable of the rich fool teaches us that a life of too much ease, comfort, luxury and accumulation distracts us from God and tempts us to feel that true happiness can come from what we possess materially. Simplicity of lifestyle encourages us to trust more in God than in our personal capabilities." Ignatius Kaigama, Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria.	Lord help me to not be attached to stuff but to value people more.
20	5th Feb	Humility	"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."	SMSC - Everyone is equal CST - The Dignity of the human person	Heavenly Father, give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means, and the will to put it into practice; through Jesus

			John 13:14-16	<p>"He created us not as objects but as people loved and capable of loving; He has created us in His image and likeness (see Gen 1:27). In this way He has given us a unique dignity, calling us to live in communion with Him, in communion with our sisters and our brothers, with respect for all creation."</p> <p>Pope Francis Papal audience 12/08/2020</p>	Christ our Lord. Amen.
21	19th Feb	Lent: Pray, fast, give	<p>"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan."</p> <p>Mark 1:12-15</p>	<p>SMSC - Discipline of lent.</p> <p>CSC - Solidarity</p> <p>If one member of Christ's body suffers, all suffer. If one member is honoured, all rejoice. (1Cor. 12:12-26)</p>	Lord help me to see beyond the ordinariness to the glory of God in every minute. Amen
22	26th Feb	Fairtrade - Dignity of Work	<p>"The Lord blesses our work so that we may share its fruits with others."</p> <p>Deuteronomy 14:28-29</p>	<p>SMSC - Fairtrade</p> <p>CST - Dignity of work</p> <p>"The workers themselves should share in deciding the conditions on which their future depends."</p> <p>Classroom prayer book for Lent</p>	Lord, I commit this work day to you. I invite you, Jesus, to be with me today. Amen
23	4th Mar	Patience	<p>"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer."</p> <p>Romans 12:9-21</p>	<p>SMSC - Patience</p> <p>CST - Dignity of the person</p> <p>"Be patient with everyone, but above all be patient with yourself. I mean, do not be disheartened by your faults, but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew." ST Francis de Sales</p>	Lord help me to be patient in life and not to try to rush things. Waiting is not always easy but this lent help me to find peace in waiting. Amen



24	11th Mar	Keep going when things get difficult	"But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance." Luke 8:11-15	SMSC - Resilience CST - Solidarity If one member of Christ's body suffers, all suffer. If one member is honoured, all rejoice. (1Cor. 12:12-26)	No matter where you have us planted, help us bloom for your glory. We love you. We need you. We praise you. In Jesus name, Amen
25	18th Mar	Being determined	"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4	SMSC - Being moral CST - Stewardship of Creation "Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations." Pope Francis	Lord, I want open eyes; I want the courage to see the truth: that we are all part of you. Help me.
26	8th April	Hope	"For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	SMSC - What do you hope for in life? CST - Peace "His forgiveness and salvation are not something we can buy, or that we have to acquire by our own works or efforts. He forgives us and sets us free without cost." Pope Francis Christus Vivit 121	Father in heaven, you call us to reject the darkness of selfish pleasure-seeking, and walk in the light of God. May we maintain a balance in our lives between our own needs and the needs of others. Amen
27	15th April	Walk with me	"Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you	SMSC - Faith in God CST - Dignity of work "Often, institutions on a higher level make decisions about conditions on which the future of workers and their children depends. The workers themselves should share in deciding these conditions." Second Vatican Council	"God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another." St John Henry Newman

			discussing with each other while you walk along?" Luke 24:13-35		
28	22th April	The Good shepherd - pray for vocations  <u>Self respect</u>  <u>Making decisions</u>	"I am the good shepherd: I know my own and my own know me, just as the FATHER knows me and I know the Father;" John 10:11-18	SMSC - Vocation in life  CST - Human dignity 'The Lord wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation' – Pope Francis.	We pray for those who follow your call into religious life. We ask you to bless their work. Amen
29	29th April	Let us pray	"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:7-15	SMSC - People of faith make time for prayer  CST - Community and participation  'Each of us has a part to play, a gift to share, a service to offer, for building up the Body of Christ in love.' Pope Francis, June 19, 2013	Father, help me to pray this week and bring you into everything I do.
30	6th May	Mary Our mother	"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant." Luke 1:39-56	SMSC - Faithfulness  CST - Family  "Faithfulness is the quality of a friend, refusing no test and no trouble, loyal, persevering; not at the mercy of emotional ups and downs or getting tired when things are tiresome. In the interior life of prayer, faithfulness points steadily to God and His purposes, away from self and its preoccupations." Evelyn Underhill, The Fruits of the Spirit	Bless our communities, loving Mary, fill our hearts with compassion, help us to shelter the stranger, and share the goodness of God's consoling love with all our neighbours. (Taken from CAFOD)

31	13th May	Living in a digital world <u>Laughter and humour</u>	"to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone." Titus 3:2	SMSC - Relating to others using technology CST - Common Good  "Civil society exists for the common good, and hence is concerned with the interests of all in general, but also with individual interests in their due place and degree." Pope Leo XIII,	May we use technology and our time wisely as a means to communicate your message of love to the world. Amen.
32	20th May	Build your confidence	"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:25-34	SMSC - Building confidence CST - Dignity of the person  "Each time we face our fear, we gain strength, courage, and confidence in the doing." - Author Unknown	Father you made me. Help me to believe in myself as you believe in me. Amen
33	3rd June	The Sacred Heart of Jesus	"and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength" Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19	SMSC - Making connections  "The purpose of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is to focus our hearts on receiving and returning His love with gratitude — with all of our heart, soul, and strength — that He may be glorified." <a href="https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/what-is-the-devotion-to-the-sacred-heart-of-jesus/#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20devotion%20to,that%20He%20may%20be%20glorified.">https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/what-is-the-devotion-to-the-sacred-heart-of-jesus/#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20devotion%20to,that%20He%20may%20be%20glorified.</a>	O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer You this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You.
34	10th June	Good sense	"Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone." Colossians	SMSC - Improving our decision making CST - Community  "The person with practical wisdom is skilled in aiming, in accord with calculation, at what is best for a human	Lord, guide me to make good choices in life and learn from the times I don't get it right. Amen

			4:5-6	being in things attainable through action." Aristotle.	
35	17th June	Supporting refugees  Refugee week starts on 20th June	"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:31-46	SMSC - REFUGEE WEEK  CST - DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE  The Holy Family, in their flight to Egypt, as the "archetype of every refugee family." Jesus identified with newcomers ("I was a stranger and you welcomed me"), so that in the Catholic tradition, newcomers "image" God. It identifies the Church itself as a "pilgrim" Church.	May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.
36	24th June	Reflection	"Or how can you say to your neighbour, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye?" Matthew 7:1-5	SMSC - Taking time to think about things  CST - Solidarity "While modern society places more importance on one's own interests regardless of or even to the detriment of others...[true Christians] ban individualism in order to encourage sharing and solidarity." Pope Francis, General Audience, June 26, 2019	"See everything. Overlook a great deal. Improve a little." Pope John XXIII. Help me Lord to grow a little today.
37	1st July	Care for God's creation  <u>Environmental awareness</u>	"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15	SMSC - Looking after the world  CST - Stewardship of Creation  'The beauty of creation reflects the infinite beauty of the Creator and ought to inspire the respect and submission of man's intellect and will.' (CCC: 341)	All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Taken from Pope Francis' prayer for the earth
38	8th	Carefully	"And this is my prayer, that	SMSC - WORLD POPULATION DAY	Father, help us this day to realise that

	July	considering options	your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless," Philippians 1:3-11	CST - SOLIDARITY  "Nothing motivates more profoundly than love. Someone who loves can accomplish great works and go a long way." Docat 309	it is only by loving you and our neighbour as our self that we can find true peace and fulfilment. Amen
39	15th July	Celebrating the year	"You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16	SMSC - CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS  CST - CALLED TO FAMILY AND PARTICIPATION " The life of every family is marked by all kinds of crises, yet these are also part of its dramatic beauty. Couples should be helped to realise that surmounting a crisis need not weaken their relationship; instead, it can improve, settle and mature the wine of their union." (On love and family)	May the blessing of the light be with you... May you ever give a kindly greeting as you go along the roads of life. Amen

Key

Ordinary time in the Church year

Advent/ Lent in the Church year

Christmas, Easter and feasts with liturgical colour white/ gold

Feasts of Martyrs or the Holy Spirit

Events in the Church year

Liturgical colour for All Souls day

Festivals from other faiths that are during holiday's this year: Diwali, Hanukkah, Passover, Theravada New Year (Buddhism)