

Did you know?

Pope Francis was an altar server too. When he was nine years old he dropped the book of Gospels because it was so heavy!

Guild of 
St Cuthbert



Newsletter



Dear server,

BACK in 2019 many of you joined me at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh as we launched the Guild of St Cuthbert. As I mentioned at the time, it was exactly five years to the day since I became your Archbishop so it was a wonderful way to celebrate! As altar servers, you are vitally important to the lives of our parishes. Please keep serving at the altar to the very best of your ability, and I look forward to seeing you at our next day for altar servers on Saturday 3rd September.

Archbishop Leo Cushley



Fr Martin meeting Pope Francis.

I served for the Pope!

Fr Martin Eckersley is Assistant Priest at St Francis Xavier's in Falkirk. Here he describes what it's like to serve for Pope Francis.

IMAGINE being in a packed football stadium, or in the middle of a sold out music concert.

Tens of thousands of people are crowded in. You can feel the excitement in the air. That was what it was like serving for Pope Francis in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Over sixty thousand people squeezed into the biggest Church in the world. I had goosebumps. I was nervous. I was asked to practice all day.

Everything was rehearsed with military precision because, as the head altar server said, "He deserves the best!".

I thought the head altar server meant that Pope Francis deserved the best (after all, he is the Pope!) but as I stood within touching distance of our Pope I realised that all our practice and rehearsal wasn't for him at all. He was much too focused on praying to notice what the servers were doing. All the practice was for someone even more

Serving God is an opportunity servers have every Sunday

important. It was for God, because HE deserves the best. Serving for Pope Francis was an incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I will never forget it! But serving God is an opportunity that servers are given every single Sunday. So whether we are serving for Popes in giant Basilicas or for our own parish priest in our local church, I think we should try to remember the lesson that serving Pope Francis taught me: wherever and whenever we serve, God deserves the best!

Pope Francis



"The closer you are to the altar, the more you will remember to speak with Jesus in daily prayer; the more you will be nourished by the Word and the Body of the Lord, the better able you will be to go out to others, bringing them the gift that you have received, giving in turn with enthusiasm the joy you have received."



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More stuff over



Did you know?

St Tarcisus was a 12 year old altar server who became a saint after he died taking Communion to those in prison for being Christians.

Guild of St Cuthbert



TOP TIPS FOR SERVING



By Father Kevin Dow

BE EARLY


In the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, of which I am a member, we have a mantra: "5 minutes early is 5 minutes late!" Make sure that you are at Church early enough, so that any duties that need doing are done in good time (lighting candles, setting up the credence table etc) and that you have time to receive any instructions/advice.

BE ATTENTIVE

Don't sit daydreaming during the liturgy - be attentive to what is happening around you. Keep an eye on the priest, and if there is an MC, him too, as they may need you to do something. If you are daydreaming, you will miss their signal.

TAKE PRIDE IN YOURSELF & YOUR DUTIES

Remember that you are not just assisting your Parish Priest during the Mass, but that you are serving God, for it is to God that all glory and honour belong. Be the very best server you can be. Take pride in your appearance, keeping your robes clean and presentable. The same goes for your shoes, fingernails and hair!

Fr Dow is a chaplain in the British Army and former Archdiocesan Master of Ceremonies 

WHO WAS ST CUTHBERT?

Cuthbert was born in Dunbar, East Lothian, which is part of our Archdiocese. Orphaned when a young child, he was a shepherd for a time, and later became a monk at Melrose Abbey.

He attracted huge crowds through his missionary work and then lived as a hermit. He spent the last two years of his life running his diocese, caring for the sick of a horrible plague and working numerous miracles of healing. He was also gifted with the ability to prophesy. His Feast day is March 20.

YOU'RE INVITED! ALTAR SERVERS' DAY 2022



IN 2019 more than 150 young people made history by becoming the first members of the Guild of St Cuthbert. Come for a day of training and games and meet fellow servers from across the Archdiocese! [Speak to your parish priest for details.](#)

WHERE: GILLIS CENTRE, 100 STRATHEARN ROAD, EDINBURGH

WHEN: SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 2022

What YOU said

"I LIKE TAKING PART IN THE MASS AND ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT MY CATHOLIC FAITH." A.O. AGED 9

"When I am altar serving I feel happy and closer to Jesus."

G.M. AGED 10

"After a couple of years I realised altar serving is not just helping the priest, it is about serving God."

D.F. AGED 14

Did you know?

Until the 1960s, altar servers were responsible for making the responses during Mass. And they were all in Latin too!

A prayer for altar servers

O **Jesus**, my King and Lord, by the grace of the heavenly **Father** and the power of the **Holy Spirit**, guide me in all righteousness as I serve You today at the altar. If I happen to make an error, may it be a lesson so my service will be perfect tomorrow. **Jesus**, I love you with all my heart. Amen.

