

GUIDELINES FOR READERS

It is a great honour to be a reader of God's word to the people of God during the Mass. It is an honour which demands a certain frame of mind, a certain willingness to prepare oneself and certain humility.

It would be extremely rare that any reader approach the task of proclaiming the sacred scriptures during Mass without having prepared thoroughly.

This preparation would normally take place the night before and so it is essential that readers have the appropriate readings to hand. For those who read on a Sunday, a Sunday Missal is sufficient, but a daily Missal is essential for weekday readers.

PREPARATION

If you are unable to read at the appointed time, please seek a replacement from the list of readers.

PRESENTATION

- Reading in public becomes much easier and more effective if you think of yourself as a story-teller and keep the following points in mind.
- As the storyteller you must be well rehearsed and familiar with the content of the story.
- Assume that the congregation do not know the story and read slowly to allow listeners to follow the content.
- Speak loudly and clearly, thinking in terms of addressing the people in the back rows.
- If possible make eye contact every so often.
- Remember that, because your hands cannot be seen as you read, you can use your finger at the side of the text to keep your place when you look up.
- If you consciously relax your shoulders you will feel and look much more confident.

PROCEDURES

Readers at Mass ought:

- To check that the Lectionary is open at the correct place before Mass begins
- To genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament on entering and leaving the sanctuary.

FIRST READING: Reminders

- Do not leave your seat until the priest has concluded the Collect (Opening Prayer).
- Always use the Lectionary provided
- No need to announce the number of reading (i.e. "The first reading is taken from..." etc.)
- Leave a short period of silence of FIVE seconds before saying The Word of the Lord
- Allow a short period of silence before beginning psalm- count to FIVE

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Reminders

- No need to announce the Responsorial psalm.
- No need to announce the response to the Responsorial psalm.
- Always repeat the response to the psalm with the people this helps when it is long
- The gospel acclamation is an announcement of something (i.e. the gospel).
No need to announce an announcement!
- Please also note, on occasions the psalm may be sung, always check with music ministry

SECOND READING: Reminders

- No need to announce the number of reading (i.e. “The second reading is taken from...” etc.)
- Leave a short period of silence of several seconds before saying The Word of the Lord – FIVE seconds
- The Alleluia is ideally sung. On a Sunday check with music ministry if they are singing the gospel acclamation in part or in full. Please turn the page to the gospel if necessary
- The reader may leave the ambo immediately after the gospel acclamation verse (i.e. as the second Alleluia begins)
- On the way back to your seat, remember to genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament on leaving the sanctuary

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Reminders

- Approach the sanctuary at the end of the Creed, remembering to genuflect.
- Please do not change or add prayers, even when you know someone is ill or has recently died
- Do not leave the sanctuary until the priest has finished the concluding prayer, genuflecting as you leave
- Please also note there will be a copy of the Prayers on the ambo, please do not remove them from the ambo.

SUMMARY

- **DO NOT** leave your place until the priest has concluded the Collect (Opening Prayer) or Creed
- **SPEAK CLEARLY** and with volume, please do not depend on the microphone
- **COUNT FIVE SECONDS** before saying The Word of the Lord at the end of the reading
- **COUNT FIVE SECONDS** after the First Reading before beginning the psalm
- **COUNT FIVE SECONDS** after the Second Reading before beginning the Alleluia
- **SAY ‘THE WORD OF THE LORD’ LOUDLY AND CLEARLY** so all know when to respond ‘Thanks be to God’
- **NO NEED FOR ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS** (‘the response is’; ‘the sequence’; ‘please stand’ etc.)
- **TURN THE PAGE** for the next reader or priest is necessary before you leave the lectern
- **REPEAT THE RESPONSE** to the psalm with the people, to help them
- **LEAVE THE AMBO AS THE SECOND ALLELUIA** begins to allow the priest to get to the lectern in time
- **REPEAT THE RESPONSE** to the bidding prayers with the people, to help them
- **LEAVE THE SANCTUARY** after the priest has said the concluding prayer
- **FINALLY** always check with music ministry in case they are singing the psalm or acclamation and check your readings and prayers before Holy Mass.

Prayer for Readers

Praise to you, Lord God,

King of the Universe, and all glory to Your name.

I praise You and thank You for calling me to proclaim Your Word to Your beloved people.

Open the Hearts of all who come here to receive You through the sacred scriptures and the Sacraments, that they may hear Your voice when I read.

Let nothing in my life or manner disturb Your people or close their hearts to the action of Your Spirit.

Cleanse my heart and mind, and open my lips so that I may proclaim Your glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God forever and ever.

Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom.....Pray for us

St Andrew.....Pray for us

St Margaret.....Pray for us