

GUIDANCE FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the days before Mass

- Regularly consult the Ministers' rota to ensure that you know when you are scheduled to minister.
- If you are unable to minister on any occasion, arrange for another minister to take your place.

At Mass

- Arrive early for Mass. This avoids the need for someone to be worrying about whether or not a stand-in will be required.
- Sit as far forward in the church as you can, next to the central aisle (if you can), so that you can come forward promptly, and with reverence, when the time comes.
- Stay seated until the end of the priest's communion (as he raises the chalice to his lips, and the bell should be rung).

At Holy Communion

- Come forward reverently and stand side-by-side, in the centre, at the bottom step. Bow together to the altar.
- Receive the Body of Christ from the priest.
- Receive the Blood of Christ from the priest, and keep hold of the chalice and purificator.
- One minister will be given a communion dish for the distribution of the Body of Christ, and will stay in the centre with the priest.
- When all are ready, one or two ministers with a chalice move to the left positions, and one or two move to the right positions.
- All ministers with a chalice should stand at floor level (not on the first step), beyond the front pillars, so as not to block the flow back to their seats of people who choose not to take the chalice.
- If a chalice becomes empty before the end of the distribution of Holy Communion, stay in position but place the purificator, and one hand, over the chalice to indicate that it is empty.

After distribution

- When distribution is over (including the minister who may have been delayed by the need to take the chalice to an elderly parishioner in their seat), walk reverently into the sacristy by way of the lower door (this includes the extra Minister who may have been needed in the absence of a deacon. Those who are in the positions near the Shrine should not stop to bow as they cross the centre aisle).
- Consume any of the Precious Blood that may remain, and place the chalice and the purificator on the designated table in the inner sacristy area. Cover each chalice with a pall. If there is a communion dish, place this on the table also.
- Bow together to the un-purified vessels on the table, return to the original position at the bottom step, bow together to the altar, and return to your seat.