

GUIDANCE FOR READERS (LECTORS)

In the days before Mass

- Regularly consult the Readers' rota to ensure that you know when you are scheduled to read, and whether you are to be the First or Second Reader.
- If you are unable to read on any occasion, arrange for another Reader to take your place, giving that Reader enough notice so that they can be prepared.
- If, at church, you are asked to stand-in at the last moment, be ready to refuse if you have not prepared; it is better to have just one Reader doing both parts than to have an unprepared Reader.
- Prepare in the ways suggested in the notes from Fr Michael Fountaine's presentation (notes from 16 Nov 2013). Prepare to read both readings for that Sunday, ready for the possibility that the other Reader may not be available.

Just before Mass starts

- Whoever is the First Reader, check that the Bidding Prayers are on the ambo. If they are not, check if they are in the sacristy. Look them through, briefly, to be confident that you can read them well.
- Whoever is the Second Reader, check that the Notices for the day are on the ambo. If they are not, check if they are in the sacristy. Look them through, briefly, to be confident that you can read them well.
- Two or three minutes before Mass is due to start, the **Second Reader** should stand at the ambo and loudly say, "Good morning/Good evening". Wait for the church to quieten and, if necessary, repeat the greeting. Then, deliver the notices as **loudly and clearly** as you can. At the end, return to your seat.

At Mass

- 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 Collect prayer and, while the congregation are preparing to sit down, come forward to meet the other Reader in front of the altar, bow together to the altar, turn slightly towards the priest and, together, nod in acknowledgment to him.
- If you are the first Reader, move to the ambo (lectern). If you are the second Reader, sit on the seat behind the ambo.

At the ambo (First Reader)

- Look at the congregation until you sense that you have their attention, then speak the announcement line loudly, slowly, and clearly. The announcement line is "A reading from the", **not** "The first reading is a reading from the ..."!!
- Pause, and look up, to allow the announcement line to sink in, and then start the reading.
- Pause, and look up, at regular intervals during the reading, as suggested in the presentation notes.
- Have a long pause, several seconds, before boldly declaring the closing line, "The word of the Lord".
- If the Responsorial Psalm is not being sung, pause again, look at the congregation, and boldly announce the response line. Do **not** say, "The response is ..." or "The response to the psalm is ..."!!
- When the Responsorial Psalm is finished, change places with the other Reader.

At the ambo (Second Reader)

- Follow the guidance for the First Reader.
- After boldly declaring the closing line, “The word of the Lord”, and if the choir are not going to be singing the Gospel Acclamation, wait for the “Alleluia, alleluia” to be sung. Then, slowly and clearly, speak the Gospel Acclamation. Then, wait for the “Alleluia, alleluia” to be sung again.
- If the Book of the Gospels is on the altar, remove the lectionary from the top of the ambo and place it below, to make space for the Book of the Gospels.
- With the First Reader, return to the main body of the church, turn to the altar, bow together, and return to your seats.

The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful / Bidding Prayers)

- The **First Reader** should come forward promptly, but reverently, at the end of the singing, or reciting, of The Creed.
- At the bottom step, stop and bow to the altar, then proceed to the ambo.
- Allow the priest to say the introduction to the Prayer, and then announce each prayer slowly, loudly and clearly, with eye contact with the congregation, as for the readings.
- After the priest’s conclusion to the Prayer, return to the main body of the church, turn to the altar, bow, and return to your seat.