

GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS

(Revised April 2016)

- We ask that scheduled Lectors check in before mass, so that the Presider knows there is a sufficient number of lectors for each celebration. There should always be **two** Lectors at each mass. **Reader 1** proclaims the First Reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. **Reader 2** proclaims the Responsorial Psalm (if the choir is not present) and the Second Reading.
- **The Lectionary and Prayer of the Faithful** will be on the lectern before mass begins. Please go to the lectern before mass in order to be familiar with the location of the readings and Prayer of the Faithful.
- **The Book of Gospels** will be at the entrance of the Church. The Deacon carries the Book of Gospels. If the Deacon is not present, **Reader 1** carries the Book of Gospels in the procession and places it in **the centre of the altar, facing the people**.
- **Both** Lectors process into the church with the Altar Servers and Presider. The Cross Bearer leads, followed by the Altar Servers, then **Reader 2**, then **Reader 1**, and then the presider. When we arrive at the Sanctuary entrance, the one holding the Book of Gospels is **not** required to bow, only those who are not carrying something.
- It is good practice to remember what page number the reading is on, so that one can easily locate the reading if the ribbons fall out of place. The first reading is proclaimed by **Reader 1**. The choir, if present, leads the assembly in the response. If no choir is present, the responsorial psalm is proclaimed by the **Reader 2**, who also proclaims the second reading. Please close the Lectionary after the second reading and place it to the side of the lectern.
- The position of the microphone is important. If the microphone cannot capture your voice, then few in the assembly will hear. Please adjust the microphone to your height and speak directly into the microphone.
- Only the black print is to be proclaimed. The red print, which indicates the first reading, psalm, second reading, are only guides for the reader and are not to be used in the proclamation. The listener does not need to hear these aids, given for use to the lector.
- When you are finished reading, please stay at the lectern for 10-15 seconds, so that the assembly may reflect upon the reading. It is the lector's responsibility to lead the assembly in silence.
- After the homily, we recite the creed together. **Before the conclusion of the creed**, **Reader 1** should go to the lectern to be ready for the Prayers of the Faithful as soon as the presider introduces the prayer. After the Prayers of the Faithful are read, please stay at the lectern until the Presider finishes the final prayer.
- At the end of mass, we do not take the Book of Gospels out with us. This practice means that the lectors are not required to process out at the end of mass. The reason for this practice is that, after celebrating mass, we all carry the Word of God with us when we leave. Through our celebration, the Word is no longer contained in the book, but has become living and active in the people who have heard it.

We thank you for serving in this ministry.