

In principio erat Verbum' **'In the beginning was The Word'.**

Readers Induction / Best Practices

Before Mass:

- Agree with the other reader who's doing what, preferably before the Sunday as this will enable you to practice your reading.
- It is normal for one person to do the first reading and responsorial psalm and the other to do the second reading, gospel acclamation and bidding prayers.
- Make contact with the other reader before Mass starts.
- Check the Lectionary is on the Ambo and at the right page.
- Check that the Bidding Prayers are on the Ambo.

Where to sit - How to approach the altar

- It is probably best to sit nearer the front of the church and at the end of the pew. If you sit at the back you will have longer to walk and possibly arrive at the ambo out of breath.
- Stop at the bottom of the steps and in the centre of the altar, bow and proceed to the ambo.
- After the reading, return to the bottom of the steps at the centre and bow.
- If applicable wait for the 2nd reader and bow together.

At the Ambo:

- On arrival at the ambo, don't start the reading straight away, compose yourself.
- Microphone: Adjust the height ONLY – do not try to move it to the left or right. Remember that while the microphone will amplify your voice it is still necessary to speak louder than a normal conversational level.
- 1st & 2nd Readings:
 - Introduce the reading: Look at the congregation and say "A Reading From...." (**Not "The 1st Reading is taken from the ..."**). Pause then start.
 - **Read Slowly** – use punctuation to your benefit. If you feel that you are *running away*, then pause.
 - If you feel able to do so, acknowledge the congregation by "looking up" throughout the reading.
 - When you have finished the reading, pause, look at the congregation and say "The word of the Lord"
 - If you are the 2nd Reader remove the Lectionary after the reading (assuming that the priest will use the book of the Gospels) and place on the shelf.
- Responsorial Psalm:
 - Don't say "The response to the psalm is..." just read the response.
 - If it's a long response – if necessary, join in with the congregation.

- Alleluia (or during Lent, the Gospel Acclamation) varies as to whether the choir sing all the acclamation or just the alleluia – check with the choir (10 & 11:30 Masses only).
- Prayers of the Faithful:
 - The person responsible for the 2nd reading normally reads the Bidding Prayers.
 - Even more important to read slowly.
 - The Priest may use his own opening and closing prayer as opposed to the one on the sheet.
 - You only read the petition; the priest will say “Lord in your mercy”.
 - Remain at the Ambo until after the closing prayer.

Practice the readings before hand – if you don’t understand what you are reading then what chance do the congregation have?

A useful resource for the pronunciation of Biblical names/places:

<http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm>

Use the “Guide for Readers” published by Dominican Publications which can be found on the table at the back of the church.

The following website has all the Mass readings:

<http://www.universalis.com/Europe.England/mass.htm>

Variations:

Saturday 6pm:

Normally singing of hymns and Alleluia (or Lenten alternative) before and after the acclamation - reader says the acclamation

Sunday 08:30:

No hymns – Readers say the Entry & Communion antiphons – either from the ambo or if confident from their seats. You will need a Sunday Missal for the Entrance Antiphon and Communion Antiphon. All other readings will be on the Ambo.

Sunday 10:00:

Hymns by the Music Group –

Young readers responsible for 1st reading and responsorial psalm (check with music group, to see if they will be signing the response)

Sunday 11:30

Hymns & parts of the Mass: Lord Have Mercy, Gloria etc by the Choir (every Sunday except 3rd of the month). Check with Choir to see if they will be singing the responsorial psalm and or the Gospel Acclamation.