

Guidelines for Lectors

Updated May 2019

Introduction

This ministry is a ministry of proclamation - we are proclaiming the Word of God at Mass. This is a sacred task and requires utmost reverence. Appropriate dress and limited conversation with other Ministers on the Sanctuary should be observed when carrying out this Ministry.

NOTE FOR THE CATHEDRAL: The current Ambo is too small to hold the Book of the Gospels so it is not processed in the Entrance Procession. Instead the Lectionary is on the Ambo before Mass commences and is left there at the completion of the second reading.

Before Mass & the Entrance Procession

- Please be early – at least 15 minutes before Mass begins.
- Check in with the Senior Server/Acolyte or Sacristan to let them know that you are the rostered Lector.
- Organise with the other Lector who is going to carry in the Book of Gospels from the foyer.
- Check that the Lectionary is at the Ambo and open at the correct reading.
- Wait in the foyer until it is time to process. Join the Entrance Procession after the Altar servers, with the Book of the Gospels elevated above your head. The person with the Book of the Gospels goes directly before the Priest/Bishop.
- When you get to the front – bow to the Altar with the Priest. If you have the Book of the Gospels, you do not have to bow.
- The person with the Book of the Gospels follows the Priest up to the Altar, and after the priest has kissed the Altar, place the Book of the Gospels on the Altar from the back. Make your way from the Sanctuary. You do not have to bow, just move off to your seat.
- On occasion the Altar at the Cathedral will be revered by incensing, usually when the Bishop is presiding. When this occurs, the Minister of the Word waits to the side of the Altar until the incensing is complete and then the Book of the Gospels is placed on the Altar.

The Liturgy of the Word

- After the Opening Prayer make your way to the Sanctuary where you wait for the other Lector and possibly the Cantor (Psalmist). When all are present bow together.
- Approach the Ambo (Lectern) if you are the first reader – give a slight bow to the Word, and step forward. Adjust the microphone from its base if it is not at the correct height for you.
- Announce the reading – eg '*FROM THE BOOK OF JOB*' before you begin the reading and then PAUSE. Do not read the words in italics. When the reading is finished, make a deliberate PAUSE before you conclude with "The Word of the Lord" not "This is the ..."
- Take your seat on the Sanctuary.
- The second Lector approaches the Ambo (Lectern) – give a slight bow to the Word, and steps forward. Adjust the microphone from its base if it is not at the correct height for you.
- Announce the reading – eg '*FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE GALATIANS*' before you begin the reading and then PAUSE. Do not read the words in italics. When the reading is finished, make a deliberate PAUSE before you conclude with "The Word of the Lord" not "This is the ...".
- When the second reading is finished close the lectionary and place it on the Ambo shelf.
- Process to the bottom of the steps to the Sanctuary, bow and move back to your seat.

General

- It is important to create more moments of silence in our liturgy – This allows people the time to take in the Word that has just been proclaimed. Please make the deliberate pauses that are indicated above.
- If you are the second reader, don't be in a hurry to move to the Ambo for the next reading. Give as much time as you feel is appropriate here.
- All ministers including Lectors and Communion Ministers join in the procession from the Sanctuary with the celebrant at the end of Mass.
- For the Cathedral, if you are unable to fill your rostered place, please try the other Lectors on the Contact List attached and if you are unsuccessful, then phone or email David Nelson, Liturgical Ministries Director.
- For the Assumption Church, if you are unable to fill your rostered place, please phone Mrs Betty Burke and Betty will find a replacement for you.

Contact Details

Assumption Church	Betty Burke	6331 2063
Cathedral Church	David Nelson	0429 326 373 or liturgy.cathedral@cdob.org.au

Thank You for your time and assistance with this Ministry.