



# Holy Family and Our Lady's Parishes

## Ministry of the Word

The following list provides for a standardised, dignified and reverent liturgical form which will allow the congregation to fully benefit from the proclamation of the Word.  
The list is firmly based on the General Instructions of the Roman Missal and the Guide to the Lectionary.

1. Prepare by reading the text in context and allow prayer to enter your method.  
Use the Pronunciation Guide for the Sunday Lectionary if necessary.
2. Dress appropriately.
3. Make your presence known to the deacon or priest that you are present.
4. Sit reasonably close to the ambo.
5. Check the lectionary and the readings before the start of the Mass or Service.
6. Approach the ambo at the appropriate time and bow to the altar.  
6.1 Do NOT move at all if the minister is mid way through the opening prayer.
7. Read from the lectionary and nothing else - e.g. Missalette or prayer book.
8. Begin your reading by:  
A reading from the book of e.g. Genesis  
Pause  
Read slowly and carefully the Scripture passage in a good clear voice.  
Pause at the end of the reading before saying: "This is the word of the Lord"
9. Pause again before beginning the Psalm  
Begin your reading by:  
Reading out the Refrain once to the congregation.  
Pause  
Read the first verse of the Psalm  
Congregation repeat the Refrain at this point.  
Continue to end of the Psalm

Please note that Father David ultimately wishes the congregation to have full responsibility for reading the Psalm so the above method of delivery is to be in place only until such time as he requests the congregations to read the Psalm.

10. For the second reading the process is identical to that of the First Reading.
11. Please DO NOT say the First Reading is a reading from ... Simply say: 'A reading from Genesis' or whatever book it is from. The same is true for the second reading it can simply be introduced as e.g. 'A reading from the book of Revelation'.
12. Leaving the sanctuary is the reverse of entry - a bow to altar once again.

13. On reading the Intercessions the same rules of speed and clear voice apply. A example copy is enclosed with this document.
- 13.1 One point to mention and that is at the end of the actual intercessions I usually put in the following wording:

*(For our own intentions we now pray in silence.)*

It is not vital that you read this out rather just give an ample **pause**

We turn now to Mary, help of Christians, and ask her to intercede for all God's people, living and dead, as we pray together..... **Hail Mary**

*(Reader : please remain at the ambo until the Priest has finished the following prayer)*

The phrases in brackets do **not** need to be said by the reader - they are simply a visual cue for you to pause sufficiently in order to give the congregation time to add their own personal prayers at this time. Then you can introduce the Hail Mary as indicated and then you are reminded to wait until the celebrant finishes the prayer before leaving the sanctuary.

I do hope that this framework provides you with a structured support which will enable you to proclaim God's Word and the Intercessions confidently.

If ever there is anything you are unsure about please do not hesitate to ask either the deacon or the priest.

**Rotas:**

Our Lady's church: Mrs Jean Sullivan is responsible for its construction

Holy Family church: Deacon John is responsible to the rota construction.

You can contact either of us by the following means:

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The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in preparing some pamphlets to help Readers, say in their introduction:

*"In proclaiming the word of God from Sacred Scripture, readers exercise their responsibility in mediating the presence of Christ. God speaks to the assembly through them, and the impact of God's message will depend significantly on their conviction, their preparation, and their delivery."*

The ministry of Reader is a most important one and it carries with it a lot of responsibility if the Reader is to effectively **Proclaim God's Word.**

Many thanks, once again for taking on this responsibility and I sincerely hope you will gain greatly from this ministry.

Deacon John