

Some DO's and DON'Ts for readers

DO

- Prepare - try and go over your reading before the event. (Feel free to keep a book at home. The reading rota will tell you what week we are on)
- Be early, at least ten minutes before the Mass starts, and let the priest know that you have arrived.
- Check with the choir if they are going to sing the alleluia. If the Alleluia is sung, do not repeat the word 'alleluia' before reading the acclamation.
- Arrange for one of you to carry the Book of the Gospels in the procession in front of the priest at the beginning of Mass. Come into the sacristy five minutes before the Mass to collect it. When you are carrying this book, please go round the altar to place it in the middle of the altar.
- Come up together to the sanctuary before the first reading and wait for each other to come back down together after the acclamation.
- Read **slowly** and **clearly**. Take a breath at commas and a longer pause at the full stops.
- If you are can, look at the congregation occasionally during the reading.
- If the Green 'Book of the Gospels' is being used at the Mass, close the lectionary and place it at the side of the lectern.

DO

DO

DO

DON'T

DON'T

DON'T

DON'T

- **DON'T** walk up to the lectern while the priest is saying the Opening Prayer for the First Reading or during the Creed in order to do the Bidding Prayers. I know you may feel less conspicuous, but one liturgical action should not begin until the previous one has finished.
- **DON'T** say 'First Reading' or 'Second Reading', simply say: 'A reading from...'
- **DON'T** say 'This is the Word of the Lord'. After a little please, try and look up and say 'The Word of the Lord'
- **DON'T** say 'response' after each verse of the responsorial Psalm.
- **DON'T** wait for a sign from the priest to come up for the Bidding Prayers. When the Creed has finished come up yourself straightaway.
- **DON'T** return to your place after the Bidding Prayers before the priest has said the Concluding Prayer.