

LECTOR GUIDELINES FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF BASEL

Many thanks for volunteering to be a lector. As Lectors, you are called to be servants of the Living Word of God. Before your first time serving at the ESRCCB, please read through the guidelines below, as we may do things differently to the way you are accustomed. The Liturgy Coordinator will be available to walk you through your first time as <Lector in our community prior to Mass. You can also try out the microphone to check that you can be heard. You may need to adjust the height and your distance from it. The Liturgy Coordinator will also provide you with a workbook that has the readings and recommendations on how best to present them during the Liturgy. It is recommended that you practice at home to familiarize yourself with the reading and any unusual pronunciations.

Prior to Mass

- Please sign in at the sacristy at least 15 minutes before Mass. The priest is very often unaware of who are the lectors, and it eases his task if he knows that all his ministers are present well in time.
- Check that the reading which you have prepared is the one for the day. Since we do not have Mass during the week, a Feast Day may have been moved to the Sunday. The priests and the Liturgy Minister will have set these up for the whole calendar year, and you should receive this digitally before the New Year starts.
- The second reader also reads the petitions and makes any announcements. This reader goes to the sacristy to ensure they have all announcements and should take the petition book with him-her before the start of Mass.
- The last lector to sign in should make certain that the Bible is placed on the ambo prior to the beginning of Mass and open it to the appropriate readings.

1st Lector:

Processing in to the Church

- The first lector must return to the sacristy when the bells start to chime, in order to share the opening prayer with the priest, servers, musicians and other ministers.
- The 1st Lector leads the procession into the church at the beginning of Mass ahead of the servers and the priest. The path takes them out of the sacristy toward the choir, and then turns to go down the side of the church toward the main door, and up the aisle to the Altar.
- Take the position before the altar slightly to the left of the middle. The servers will take their places on either side of your, with the priest immediately on your right.
- The servers and the priest will bow. You remain upright holding the Gospel above your head. **(Do not bow with the Gospels in your hands)**
- The priest will go to the altar and kiss it, and then he and the servers will move to take their seats, Wait until the priest has left the altar, then lay the Gospels on the altar slightly left of the middle.
- Step back from the altar or go down to the bottom step of the altar and bow or genuflect and return to your seat.

The First Reading:

- The first reading takes place after the Gloria (if there is one) and the opening prayer. (Usually the children will be invited to leave the church for Bible Bubble Babies.)
- Go to the first step and bow then take your place at the ambo. Wait until the children have left the church before beginning the first reading.
- The reading begins with the words “A reading from.....” and ends with “Word of the Lord”. After the congregation replies “Thanks be to God” you can return to your seat. Bow to the altar at the step as you leave.
- Please remember to read slowly and clearly as you are proclaiming the Word of God.

2nd Lector:

The second reading:

- The second reading takes place after the Psalm, which is usually sung.
- Go up to the step, bow and take your place at the ambo
- The reading begins with the words “A reading from.....” and ends with “Word of the Lord”. After the congregation replies “Thanks be to God” you can return to your seat **taking the Bible with you**. Bow to the altar at the step as you leave.
- Please remember to read slowly and clearly as you are proclaiming the Word of God.

The Prayer of the Faithful:

- After the Profession of Faith (Apostle’s Creed or Nicene Creed) the second Lector returns to the ambo to read the petitions, which are in the book. The book is available in the Sacristy before the Mass.
- After the petitions, the second reader may ask the congregation to be seated if there are announcements.
- Once completed, return to your seat, bowing to the altar and taking the petition book with you.
- At the end of Mass, return the Bible and the petition book to the Sacristy.

Processing out of Mass

- At the end of Mass, after the final blessing, the first Lector should go up to the altar and bow.
- Take the Gospels down and stand in front of the altar with the Gospel above your head. You will be joined by the priest on your right, and the servers on both sides.
- Wait for the priest to nod to you or when they genuflect/bow and then you will process out. **(Do not bow or genuflect with the Gospels in your hands.)**
- You will lead the servers down the side aisle near the choir side of the church and back into the Sacristy through the same path that you took into the church.
- **You lead the procession before the servers and the priest.**