
LECTORS: (Lectors & Proclaimers of the Word)

Laypersons may be commissioned to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture. They should be truly suited to perform this function and should receive careful preparation, so that the faithful by listening to the readings from the sacred texts may develop in their hearts a warm and living love for Sacred Scripture. (*GIRM*, no. 101)

When lectors announce the living Word of God in the assembly, they act as agents of Christ, who is present in the Word they proclaim. Speaking on His behalf, they seek to embody His message and make it come alive in their own person. (*GIRM*, No. 55, 59, 98, 194-198.)

Consult ministry resources eg. Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, & Proclaimers of the Word.

DO'S: (Practices may vary in each parish dependent on custom, tradition, etc.)

- An experienced lector should be assigned to support a new lector.
- Each lector should review the assigned passage a number of times beforehand and practice proclaiming it out loud.
- Ensure you know the key phrases, words, when to breathe and correct pronunciation.
- Read slowly and enunciate clearly.
- The lector should modulate their voice.
- Lector(s) walk in the entrance procession, carrying the Book of the Gospels (if no deacon), bow at the front of the sanctuary and take their places in the reserved pew (front pew closest to the ambo).
- As the lector approaches the ambo to read, they should stop, make a bow to the altar and then proceed to the ambo.
- At the ambo, adjust the microphone before starting to read.
- The lector reads the reading, pauses, then at the end of the reading says **“The Word of the Lord”** (a statement of faith) and waits for the congregation to respond **“Thanks be to God.”**
- If no choir or cantor is present, then the reader leads the Responsorial Psalm.
- At the end of the Creed the lector proceeds to the ambo to read the Prayers of the Faithful. Remain at the ambo until the celebrant has proclaimed the prayer at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful, then return to your seat.
- Lector(s) walk in the recessional procession without carrying the Book of the Gospels.

DON'TS:

- Don't prepare at the last minute.
- Don't presume the pronunciation of words, names, places & biblical terms.
- Don't read too fast.
- Don't speak in monotone.
- Don't ramble, slur, skip or muffle your words.
- Don't expect the microphone to amplify your voice, you need to project it, even with the microphone.

Extract taken from:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson



Nelson Diocese Liturgy Committee