

## Notes for Lectors

- Genuflect once as you enter the chapel. We are celebrating Christ with us during the Mass, not his presence in the tabernacle.
- The readers should wait until the priest finishes the entire opening prayer before coming forward to read.
- Readers should always read from the book on the lectern - the lectionary itself. Personal missals should not be used. Begin reading when the priest is seated.
- When there is a second reader, he/she should wait until the first finishes reading his selection before moving forward to the lectern.
- Begin reading with the words: '*A reading from the book of ....*'

Please do NOT say: '*The first reading is a reading from the book of.....*'

- Do not read the introduction. The reader should not make any comment on the reading. This is a pronouncement by the Vatican. Only the priest may comment on the readings.
- At the end of the reading, hold the book up slightly, pause and then say: '*The word of the Lord*' - Pause again before beginning the psalm.
- In reading the psalm, say the response and wait for the congregation to repeat it. The psalm is song of praise and should be properly sung, so read it in a singsong manner. As you come to the line before the response, read slower to indicate that the response is coming. At the point of the response you can look up or raise your hand to indicate it is time to respond.
- At the end of the reading return to your place **AFTER BOWING TOGETHER** with the priest.
- Hold the book up either near the top part of the lectern or in your hands so that you are facing towards the congregation. Do not be looking down. This will interfere with your proper breathing as well as your speech. You will also be looking toward the people to who you are reading.
- Look up as often as you can without losing your place. Follow the text with your finger if necessary.
- Read aloud at home before you read at Mass to be sure that you understand the text and to practice making it understandable to those to whom you are reading.
- The books of Saint Paul tend to have very long sentences. Make sure that you understand the point he is trying to express and put in full stops as you feel they are necessary to make the reading understandable.
- Stress the verbs so that you emphasise the action. Anything in quotation marks should be read a bit slower to emphasise it. Stress comparisons or whatever words will make the reading clearer. Pause between changes in the action. Speak clearly and slowly to give the congregation time to digest what you are reading. If you think you are reading too slowly – you are probably reading just right!
- Ask others to offer you critical advice.
- Above all, read with feeling.