

RITE OF COMMISSIONING OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Takes place after the Gospel and the homily.

The candidates are invited to come forward and stand before the celebrant, around the altar.

Presentation of the candidates

Dear friends in Christ, our brothers and sisters are to be entrusted with being Lay Ministers of the word in our parish, continuing their work in proclaiming God's word and our prayers during mass.

The celebrant then addresses the candidates.

Brothers and sisters, you are called forward to be commissioned and re-commissioned as lay Ministers of the Word of God. In this ministry you are accepting a responsibility for proclaiming the Sacred Scriptures to the assembly of the People of God.

You must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct, so that we will be able to hear the voice of God.

In order to carry out this ministry you will always need to pray and prepare well, for though the Word of God has its own power, the way in which you proclaim the Word should help those who listen to welcome both the presence of God and the message of God's enduring love.

Examination

The celebrant asks the following questions:

Priest: Are you aware of the demands this ministry will make on you?

I am

Priest: Do you promise to undertake this ministry with careful preparation, to the best of your ability and with God's help?

I do

Prayer of blessing

Priest: I now invite all present to pray for these Lay Ministers, and especially to invite the Holy Spirit to inspire and strengthen them.

After a pause for silent prayer the Celebrant prays over the candidates. The Lay Ministers will bow their heads and the Celebrant, with hands outstretched, will say:

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon those chosen to be Lay Ministers of the Word.

Give them a love for prayer and the Sacred Scriptures,
Help them to understand and accept your Word so that by their ministry they will help your people to hear and follow you.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

The general intercessions follow; some of these may usefully focus on the celebration of commissioning and the role of Lay Ministers of the Word in the parish/Church.