

Extra Guidelines for Readers



READING AT MASS at st Vincent's Parish Sheffield

A good idea is to **check the lectionary before Mass** if you are on the Reading on that day. Make sure the lectionary is open at the right page and it is the right Sunday. I normally have the lectionary open at the right page but mistakes can sometimes be made.

I notice some readers bring up the Mass Sheet/Bulletin with them to the lectionary when they are reading. If you have checked the reading beforehand, this is hardly necessary. Having something in your hand while you are reading could distract the congregation and portrays a kind of hesitancy in what one is doing.

Thanks for taking note of the times when the **big green Gospel Book** is used in the Sunday Liturgy. In those instances the lectionary is removed from the lectern after the second Reading.

Please always **check to see if the Psalm and Gospel acclamation are sung** on the Sunday you are assigned to do the reading. If the reader does not know whether the Psalm or Gospel acclamation are sung, the resulting hesitancy on the part of the reader will send a slight ripple of unease throughout

the congregation. The Priest, the Organist, the Cantor and Reader are meant to **work as a team** rather than in isolation.

I notice that **some readers don't allow the people to get settled** in their seats before they begin the Reading. Rushing into the Reading immediately after the opening prayers is finished doesn't allow enough time for the people to sit down and get settled. Please take your time and allow the people to get settled before you begin the reading.

I sometimes introduce the Readings on Sundays because it has been suggested to us by the powers that be particularly when the readings are difficult to comprehend. However, my introduction will always be brief.

When the **entry procession** approaches the sanctuary at the beginning of Mass I would be more than grateful if the readers or servers did not obstruct the priest as he approaches the Altar. If at all possible, please try and move enough paces to the right or left so as to leave space for the priest or other sacred ministers to approach the altar. The normal practice at St Vincent's is that servers go to the right and readers to the left.