

Our Lady Help of Christians - Reading at Sunday Mass

This is a short guide to help our Readers with some of the practical issues around reading at Mass. If you would like to know more or receive a copy of the various popular handbooks available (see back page) please ask Fr Peter or Fr Graham.

➤ **Before Sunday**

- Collect the sheet from the sacristy or use a Sunday Missal to prepare. Allow the scripture to speak to you. Remember this is the *word of God*. Give yourself a bit of space to let the message sink in.

➤ **Before Mass**

- Check that the page of the Lectionary is open at the correct place.
- Look through the *Prayer of the Faithful* for any awkward phrases or names.
- Adjust the microphone.

➤ **After the Opening Prayer of the Mass**

- Approach the sanctuary, give a small bow to the altar and approach the Ambo (the reading stand) and announce: "A Reading from the...." (Please avoid saying things like: "The first reading is")
- Take your time – this is the one chance people have to hear the word proclaimed.
- After the last phrase give a short pause, then say: 'The word of the Lord'. (Note that this has changed since the Lectionary was printed.)

➤ **At the Responsorial Psalm**

- Simply say the response phrase e.g. *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*, and allow the people to repeat it. (Please avoid saying things like: "The response is")

➤ **Before the Gospel**

- We will normally sing *Alleluia* or *Praise to you* (during Lent) then lead the people in saying the verse.
- While the singing continues, close the book and place it on the shelf, departing from the Ambo in the same way you came, with a small bow.

➤ **The Prayer of the Faithful - sometimes called *The Bidding Prayers***

- Please be ready to move to the sanctuary as the Creed draws to a close.
- Your role is TO LEAD THE PEOPLE IN PRAYER. You present to them the prayer intention, e.g. *For the Church throughout the world that she may be open to the Gospel and ready to respond...*
- But at this point you must pause and pray with the people for that intention (try counting to ten!)
- And then we gather our prayer moment together by saying e.g. *Lord hear us...* Please wait for the priest to finish the prayers before moving away.

Thank you for your service as a Reader. We like to refer to you as a *Minister of the Word* because just as a *Minister of Holy Communion* helps the Faithful receive the Lord, so you help them receive him who is the Word of life.

Don't forget you can find the latest roster on the parish website: www.olhoccowley.co.uk

Reading at Mass

Use your gift of proclaiming the scriptures in a way which helps others hear God's word. There is a published roster for Sunday Mass where your turn comes around monthly or less. A little extra help is usually requested during Holy Week. Please contact: **Fr Peter 770910**



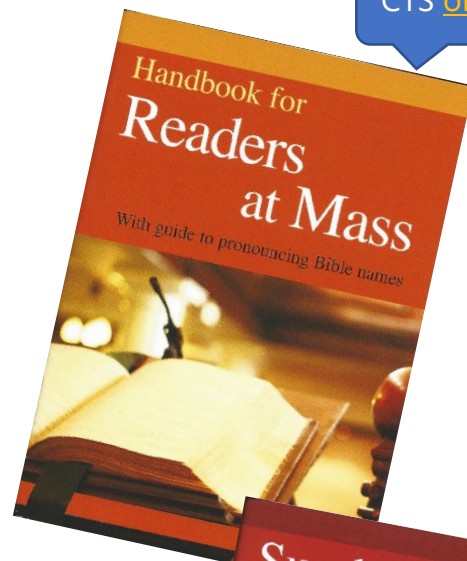
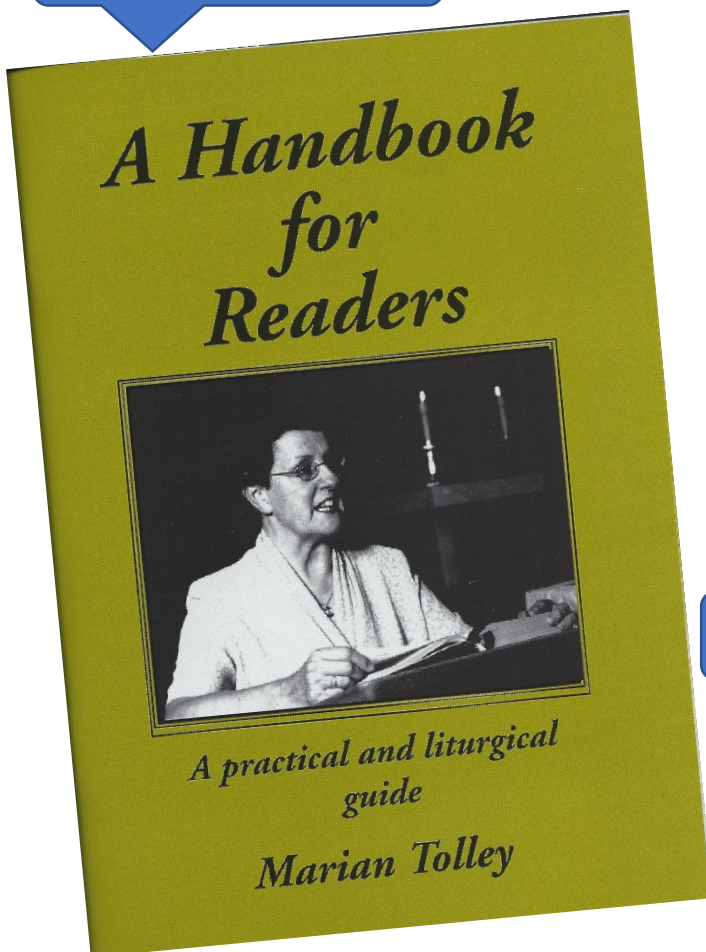
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