

MINISTER OF THE WORD



Guidebook

Diocese of
Waterford & Lismore



IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Liturgy of the Word is a privileged encounter with the Risen Lord.

Ministers of the Word assist with this encounter.

The Liturgy of the Word calls for moments of silence during which prayerful reflection on the word can take place.

With your careful proclamation, you open the ears of the congregation to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

With your warmth and empathy for the word, you open their hearts to God's transforming and healing love.

We are fed by Word and by Eucharist - they are of equal importance.

Scripture comes from God. In his word, we are told many things about God; who God is; what God does; what God wants of us.

Realising we are God's instruments and that he works through us and that we are actually part of the dialogue between God and his people.

Helpful Guidelines

- Ensure you have prepared the reading before you come to the church to proclaim. Ponder on it during the week so that you fully understand it.
- Arrive on time and check the Lectionary is marked correctly before Mass begins.
- The Lectionary is the official liturgical book from which the readings are proclaimed. It is never to be replaced by sheets of paper, missalettes, or other aids which help prepare for the Liturgy.
- Check that the microphone is the correct height for you before Mass begins.
- **Good diction** is important so pronounce every syllable.
- Be loud enough for others to hear you, but never shout.
- Proclaim slowly and clearly, keeping pauses between sentences. Remember you are telling a story.
- Be conscious of the acoustics in your church building - respect the time it takes for your voice to come back to you.
- It is inappropriate for the reader to begin with a statement : "First Reading - A reading from the prophet Ezekiel".
Sufficient: "A reading from the prophet Ezekiel". Again, you must not say "Responsorial Psalmthe response is".
Neither do you say "response" after every verse.
- Look to the gathered assembly as often as you can. This creates a connection between you and the people gathered.
- Remember to pause between the introduction to the reading and the body of the text and again before you say: '**The Word of the Lord**'
- A very practical reminder - don't forget your reading glasses if needed!
- Helpful resources available through links on www.waterfordlismore.ie (Liturgy Page)

The Second Vatican Council desired that "the treasures of the Bible be opened up more lavishly, so that a richer share in God's word may be provided for the faithful"
(Constitution on the Liturgy, 51, 35.1)

It is only when we have experienced this life-giving Spirit through prayer and the Word of God in Scripture that we will thirst for more.

**In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God
and the Word was God...**

**The Word was made flesh,
He lived among us,
and we saw His glory,
the glory that is His as the only son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.
(John 1:1, 14)**

