



**ST. MARK'S**

CATHOLIC MISSION PARISH

# Guidelines

for

# Ministers of the Word ( Reader ) and Commentator Ministry

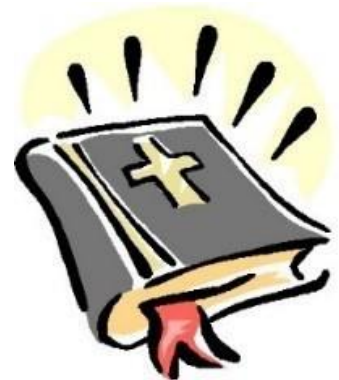
2021



Ministering in the Holy Eucharist (Liturgy) requires care, love and attention. We all share the presence of Christ in this sacrament AND “the way we minister” is a sign of Christ for those who receive Him.

All Ministers of the Word and Commentators must be committed members of the St Mark's Parish and attend Sunday Mass.

These guidelines are offered also in the light of the Safeguarding Principles being undertaken by the Catholic Diocese of Auckland so that we can best serve our Parish in this special ministry.



### **Personal Preparation**

Your calling to be Ministers in the Holy Mass requires that your demeanour and attitude reflect the sacredness of the action you are performing. You will reflect the Love of God and your faith as you exercise your ministry. In proclaiming the Word of God and enlivening the congregation to participate in the Holy Eucharist, the Church recommends that you experience the **Sacrament of Penance** (Reconciliation) at appropriate intervals so that you can perform your work in a **state of grace**.

### **Attire**

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord’s body and blood is made present” (CCC #1382). Moreover, the Catechism recognizes the need for outward signs of our inward understanding of just what is happening at Mass. “Bodily demeanor” (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest” (CCC #1387).

The focus of the members of the congregation should be on the Mass, not on the appearance of the Liturgical Minister. Ministers should dress respectfully and with decorum. Clothing that is too casual or too flamboyant will distract the congregation from the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar. Attire that is immodest may cause discomfort amongst God’s people. Clothing for both men and women should fit comfortably and not be form-fitting or tight.

Dresses and skirts should be modest in length (i.e. to the knee). A modest neckline is recommended for dresses, sweaters and blouses. Short skirts or dresses, revealing blouses (such as low cut, sleeveless or see-through), or shorts of any length do not meet the standards for assisting at the Eucharist. T-shirts with unsuitable messages and advertising on them are to be avoided.

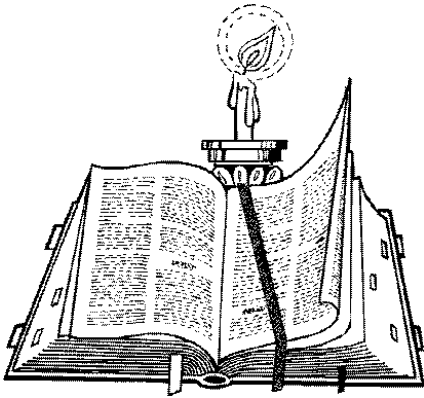
We anticipate that this Dress Code will assist our parish family in fostering a deeper respect and reverence at Mass. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

**Please be advised that the Priest and/or Deacon reserve(s) the right to request any liturgical minister who, in his prudent judgment, does not meet the requirements of this Dress Code, not to serve.**

## **Before coming to Mass**

- Please collect your roster from the church foyer when available and note when you are rostered.
- If you cannot be there on the set day, please arrange a replacement.
- Please advise the Parish Office if you will be away for an extended period.
- For Readers: It would help you to practice and reflect on the readings so you can internalise the message and be able to proclaim with devotion.
- For Commentators: Please review the Introduction and Prayers of the Faithful to familiarise yourself with the text. Please ensure to take note of who is the Mass presider and Choir/Organist.

## **Before Mass begins**



- Readers to ensure that Lectionary is on the lectern and pages open for the readings.
- Assemble in the foyer 15 minutes before Mass begins. This ensures that the Mass co-ordinator knows you are there.
- Collect crosses from the work sacristy.
- After the Prayer Before the Mass, Commentator will proceed to the lectern (choir side) for the Welcome and Prayer of the Faithful.
- Reader/s join the procession and one will carry the Book of the Gospel and place it on the main altar table then join the other ministers at the foot of the sanctuary.
- Gathering at foot of steps, keep a 'side-ways' eye on the priest and be ready to bow with him before you move to your seat.

## **Reading**

- Please come forward after the Opening Prayer; after the Presider and altar servers are seated.
- Make a solemn bow towards the Altar at the foot of the lectern and proceed.
- If the Psalm is sung, please return to your seat.
- If Psalm is not sung, proceed in reading the Responsorial Psalm.
- After the second reading, reader places the lectionary on the Altar of the Word, then both Readers walk towards the front foot of the altar and make a solemn bow towards the tabernacle, then proceed to their seats.

## **At the End of Mass**

Please remember that one of the Readers should carry the Book of the Gospel back to the lectern at the foyer.