

## THE SECOND READING

After the Psalm it is essential to leave a pause. As with the procedure for the First Reading, it is necessary to look at the congregation, when saying 'A reading from...'.  
Again, do not add extra words to this introduction such as the heading above the text given italics, nor phrases such as, 'Second Reading...' or 'the Second Reading is...'.  
After announcing the second reading, make a silent pause and then begin proclaiming the word of God. **As always, at the end of a text, pause before changing tone and announcing the conclusion: "The word of the Lord".**

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## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After a reflective pause on the Second Reading, the organist, musicians and/or choir now lead the congregation in joyful acclamation of the Gospel.

**If, the organist, musicians, or the choir are not present, you should lead the Gospel Acclamation. However, it should not be prefaced with: 'Please stand for the Gospel acclamation', or with 'Gospel acclamation'.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

With the priest's introduction complete, read the first intention. **Follow this intention with a SILENT PAUSE (count to 10!)** Afterwards, begin the dialogue invocation, e.g. 'Lord hear us/Lord, in your mercy...' Repeat this format for every intention, as it allows the faithful to take each one to heart; they get to exercise their priestly ministry in this 'universal prayer'.

After the final intention and time for intercession, remain at the ambo until the priest concludes all the petitions with a prayer. After 'Amen', return to your seat. On the way, and in a central place, reverence the altar with a bow.

**Sources:** (<https://www.catholicireland.net/the-word-of-the-lord-how-to-proclaim-the-word-of-the-lord/>)  
(<http://www.ctsbooks.org/being-a-reader-at-mass-2>)

**Useful websites:** <http://universalis.com/20180225/mass.htm>

<https://www.catholicireland.net/readings/>

<https://wau.org/meditations/>

[http://www.virc.at/texte/aktuell\\_e.htm](http://www.virc.at/texte/aktuell_e.htm)



# BEING A READER AT MASS





### WHY HAVE READERS?

The reader has a vital contribution to make to the Liturgy of the Word. Catholics believe that Christ is present in the word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in church. The important act of service to the

whole community is comparable to the work of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Both have a role of dignity and significance – each make available Christ's presence in Word and Sacrament for His people.

One of the fruits of liturgical reform following on Vatican II is that there is a renewed emphasis on the importance of the Liturgy of the Word with the treasures of the Bible opened up more lavishly. The work of the Reader is of greatest value in this process of renewal. Being a Reader at Mass is a service to the liturgy, the church and community.

### PREPARE YOURSELF:

Reading in Church is quite different because the words that are read in Church are God's words. Therefore, the first thing a reader should do is to pray for God's help – that your reading may be clear and true, so that God can use it in the minds and hearts of the congregation.

Carefully prepare by reading through the passage(s) beforehand. Look up any difficult words that you may not be familiar with. Look at the Gospel of the day and try to work out how it connects with the first reading. If you are not familiar with reading in Church, you should get the feel of the space and the sound of your voice with the microphone switched on. Practise in Church, reading from the Lectionary; do not read from a newsletter. Arrive at Church in good time before the Mass. Go to the Ambo and check that the correct page is open in the Lectionary.

If you can't read on a date allocated to you, please arrange a swap with another reader.

Approach the sanctuary together and bow. First reader to read the 1<sup>st</sup> reading and psalm, the second reader to read the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and the prayers of the faithful.

### THE FIRST READING:

Look to the congregation and check that all are seated and settled. When they are settled, announce the introduction to the First Reading: i.e. 'A reading from...'. As you do, look to the congregation for at least part of this introduction.

**Do not add extra words to this introduction such as the heading above the text given in italics nor phrases such as, 'First Reading...' or 'the First Reading is...'. After announcing the reading, pause before you begin proclaiming the word of God.**

### CONCLUDING THE FIRST READING

Allow a pause to pass at the end of a reading to signify the separation of the text. **Note: While the current *Lectionary* has 'This is the Word of the Lord' as the conclusion to the readings, the revised translation of '*Verbum Domini*' reads 'The Word of the Lord' and this is what should be used.** Look to the congregation while doing so and try to use a different tone of voice from the last sentence of the reading.



### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Before beginning the responsorial Psalm, allow a pause to pass after the conclusion to the First Reading. This silence ensures time for people to absorb and linger with the message of that reading before moving to respond to it, by way of the responsorial Psalm.

**Do not initiate the Psalm by saying: "The Responsorial Psalm" or "the response to the Psalm is" or both. Instead, announce the text of the refrain directly. Wait on the congregation to repeat this refrain. Do not join in this refrain.**

Next, slowly proclaim the text of the first verse. Use a meditative pace of delivery. Follow the text's poetic rhythm. With your slow prayerful pace, you will enable the congregation to pray the Psalm. After this verse, engage the response of the congregation again, but only by looking to them. Follow the same procedure with subsequent verses.