

### ***The Gospel Acclamation***

“Alleluia, Alleluia” (or, in Lent, the Gospel Acclamation) should normally be sung. If there is no cantor or choir and you cannot start off the singing, someone in the congregation will be able to do so

You should then read the scripture verse before the singing of “Alleluia” is repeated (unless the choir is also singing the verse).

Check with the priest before Mass begins if the Psalm and the Acclamation are being sung. The practice of simply speaking the Gospel Acclamation is discouraged.

If a Deacon has carried in the Book of the Gospels, before leaving the ambo you should remove the Lectionary and place it on the shelf.

### ***The General Intercessions (Bidding prayers)***

Towards the end of the Creed you should leave your seat in the Church and proceed towards the Ambo.

The priest will introduce the intercessions. You should announce the **response** for the congregation to repeat.

During each prayer, you should pause briefly after announcing each prayer intention (e.g., “*For the sick ...*”) and pause for a longer time before inviting the response (e.g., “*We pray to the Lord*”).

Wait until the priest has concluded the final prayer before leaving the ambo. At the bottom of the sanctuary steps, bow before the altar before return to your seat.

## St Columbkille’s Rutherglen

### **Guidelines for Readers**



“God’s word, listened to and celebrated, above all in the Eucharist, nourishes and inwardly strengthens Christians, enabling them to offer an authentic witness to the Gospel in daily life.”

(Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, November 2013, #174)

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Reading at Mass is about proclaiming God’s holy word. In this, more is involved than simply reading a text aloud. The reader is a channel for communicating the inspired word of God to the congregation. These guidelines are intended to help you to proclaim God’s holy word to His people.

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### ***Preparing in advance for reading at Mass***

You should prepare yourself as far in advance as possible, reading all the scripture texts for the Mass, reflecting on them and praying about them. Ideally you should try to read the text aloud a number of times to become familiar with it. This will enable you in church to raise your head from the printed page to make eye-contact with the congregation from time to time.

You should aim to arrive in church 10 minutes before Mass begins, and make your presence known to the priest in the sacristy. You should check that the Lectionary is in place at the ambo and opened at the correct page for your reading.

There should be one reader for the scripture passages and one more for the General Intercessions (Bidding Prayers). Please confirm before Mass begins who is reading which texts.

### ***Processing to the sanctuary***

On Sundays, you should gather at the rear of church to participate in the procession of priest, deacon and altar servers down the centre aisle.

At Daily Mass, you should gather at the sacristy and join the procession of priest and servers to the sanctuary.

At the sanctuary steps, you should stop and, together with the priest, bow to the altar before proceeding up the steps towards the seats at the side of the ambo.

### ***The Readings***

You should pause until the congregation have settled before beginning to read. Communication requires the full attention of the people. Doing this may require practice for it to become comfortable.

Your pace of delivery should not be rushed and good use of variations of pace and emphasis will help to convey the meaning of the text. It takes confidence (and practice) to read much more slowly than your normal conversational pace but this will ensure that words are not jumbled for the listeners at the back of church.

Begin the proclamation with *“A reading from . . .”* Please do not say: *“The First Reading is a reading from”*.

Do not read any text printed in red at the start of a reading.

You should pause for a few seconds at the end of the passage before saying, *“The Word of the Lord”*.

### ***The Responsorial Psalm***

After the first reading, you should pause before beginning to read the Psalm, to give time for people to reflect on the reading.

On Sundays, the Psalm is often sung by a cantor with the people responding. If speaking the Psalm, you should firstly read aloud the response line which the congregation will then repeat. Please do not say: *“The response to the Psalm is . . .”*. As you read each verse, look up to prompt the response each time.