

An Order for The Commissioning of Readers

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

- The rite may be celebrated in a county.
- It may be celebrated as need arises at other times in a parish or deanery.
- Readers are commissioned initially for a period of three years.
- At the end of that time, the commission may be renewed for a further three years.
- The same rite is celebrated for both initial and renewed commissioning.
- Readers are normally commissioned during the Mass, but the rite may be celebrated in the context of a Service of the Word.
- The Propers are those of the day.
- The Prayer of the Faithful should include a specific petition for Readers.

After the Homily, the Presider comes to stand centrally towards the edge of the Sanctuary.

Presider St Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth:

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **(1 Corinthians 12.4-6)**

When we come together in the Eucharist to celebrate the mystery of our redemption, God enriches us with different forms of service so that the whole assembly can make a worthy offering and be built up in the Holy Spirit. The work of a Reader is one such form of service and those who are called to it undergo careful preparation and are given authority for this ministry.

I now invite those to be commissioned or to renew their commission as Readers to come forward.

Those to be commissioned or re-commissioned come forward before the Presider.

Presider At the Eucharist, we are nourished at the table of God's Word and of his Sacrament. You who are called by the Lord to the ministry of Reader have a particular privilege and responsibility in serving at the table of the Word for the building up of God's people. Will you serve him in this ministry with all care, mindfulness and devotion?

Readers (together or separately if the numbers are small) I will, by God's mercy and grace.

Presider (addressing the people) Will all of you, God's people in this place, cherish and honour those who are called to serve you in this ministry, so that in all things God may be glorified?

People We will, in the love of Christ.

The Presider stretches out his hands over the Readers.

Presider May the word of God the Father in all its richness dwell in your hearts and minds and may you be so formed in his Holy Spirit that you may worthily fulfil your ministry among us to his glory and for the building up of his people, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

All Amen.

The Readers return to their places and the Mass continues with the Prayer of the Faithful.

Supplied by Mike and Ruth Holmes, Readers' Project Coordinators, Nottingham Diocese.