

Liturgical Ministries: assisting the parish in the liturgy

Worship is at the heart of the parish. Liturgical ministry is being involved with or assisting at Mass. All parishioners are encouraged to participate in one or more of the liturgical ministries. These include welcomers who greet everyone as they come into Mass, readers (Ministry of the Word) who proclaim scriptural (the Bible) passages during the Liturgy of the Word or those who lead the Universal Prayers (Intercessions), altar servers who assist the presider at the altar, cantors and music ministers who lead the singing, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who distribute Communion, either within Mass or by taking it to the wider parish community, who are housebound due to health, age or disability.

Welcoming: While the Ministry of Welcome extends to all members of the parish community, welcomers are very often the first person that a stranger will meet or speak to when entering the Abbey Church for the first time. It is especially important that newcomers receive a warm welcome and whatever guidance and help they may need when they come to Mass. As part of the parish welcome ministry team you will be asked to arrive about 20 minutes before the start of Mass to greet people as they arrive, hand out the Vigil Mass or Sunday Mass sheet and other items as required. You may also be asked to usher any latecomers to the remaining seats in the church and deal with any matters that may arise within the congregation during the Mass.

9.30am Sunday Mass Charles McCarthy charles_mccarthy@hotmail.co.uk

5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass Carol Morice carolmorice251@btinternet.com

Readers: The Ministry of the Word is a good choice for those who can confidently speak in front of the congregation. To be an effective reader calls for adequate preparation which includes study, prayer and practice. A good reader will speak loudly, clearly and with meaning so that everyone attending the Mass can hear. The readings precede the Gospel and are read from the ambo in the centre of the sanctuary. In the absence of a psalm cantor, the reader may also proclaim the Responsorial Psalm after the First Reading.

9.30am Sunday Mass Jenny Harrison parish@worth.org.uk

5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass Carol Morice carolmorice251@btinternet.com

Altar Servers: The Ministry of Server is open to all members of the congregation from the age of eight. Altar servers help the priest during Mass, working together as a team to ensure that all parts of the Mass are well supported. They carry the cross and processional candles. They hold the book for the priest when he is not at the altar. They carry the incense and thurible and present the bread and wine along with the water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts or assist him when he receives the gifts from the people. They assist in the washing of hands by the priest.

Michael Westonburt paul.michael.westonburt@btinternet.com

Cantors: Music plays an important part in the life of the parish. A cantor acts as a music leader, Psalm verse singer, and a general facilitator of the congregation's worship experience.

Mandy Horton mhorton@worth.org.uk

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Although the priest is the only minister of the Eucharist, extraordinary ministers are appointed to distribute Communion when they are required by pastoral need. They assist the priest in distributing Communion during Mass and also fulfil an important role in taking Communion to the wider parish community.

9.30am Sunday Mass Veronica Adnitt parish@worth.org.uk

5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass Debra Cheeseman parish@worth.org.uk

Universal Prayers (Intercessions): following the Creed prayers are "offered for Holy Church, for those who govern with authority over us, for those weighed down by various needs, for all humanity, and for the salvation of the whole world." (General Instruction of the Roman Missal)

9.30am Sunday Mass Charles McCarthy charles_mccarthy@hotmail.co.uk

5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass Carol Morice carolmorice252@btinternet.com

Resources

[Handbook for Readers at Mass](#)

[Ministering Communion](#)

[St Stephen's Handbook for Altar Servers](#)

[Bringing Communion to the Sick](#)

If you would like to take an active role in the liturgy, please contact the team leaders. We would love to see more people contribute to these ministries so please do not be afraid to come forward. You will be offered appropriate training.