

St Winefride's Catholic Church Neston

READING MINISTRY



May Your word be ever in my mind, ever on my lips and ever in my heart

As I proclaim your praises in the midst of your people.

This I ask through Christ our Lord

Points for Consideration

- Ours is essentially a proclamation ministry; a recent privilege which was reserved for ordained priests in the past. How does this shape our attitude to our responsibilities?
- The quotation of a former head teacher: 'There is no substitute for preparation'. Is there any value in researching the context of our readings?
- Our reading may be the only, single time in a week when our congregation hears the Word of God.
- 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God' i.e. God is present in the words we proclaim.
- How do we react when we listen to others reading from the lectern in our church? Do we feel obliged to follow in print?

So how do we best proclaim? Each person has their own style, but some essentials as follows:

1. Use the lectionary, not the weekly bulletin sheet. (Before Mass take time to familiarise yourself with the layout in the lectionary and any Gospel Acclamation difference from the mass sheet – often two alternatives given on mass sheet). NB Lectionary still has "This is the Word of the Lord" ending the reading rather than "The Word of the Lord".
2. Speed? The more people in the congregation the slower the speed but be honest (not too slow either!)
3. Volume? Position of the mike? Check the mike is at the correct position for you and move it if necessary.
4. Any chances to look up to the congregation whose ministry is in **listening** to us? When are the best times to pause? Use the punctuation to pause or look up if possible. A short pause or silence after the reading has ended before "The Word of the Lord" can be very effective.
5. You are in control of delivery; you are the manager of the proclamation; you can determine exactly how you want emphasis on phrases or words that struck you as important when you read beforehand.