



Eucharistic ministry

(adapted from a meeting with Fr Tony and Eucharistic ministers 20 July 2017)

We are serving our fellow parishioners, through our commitment and action.

Written below is the pattern of behaviour we will follow but if anything unexpected crops up, we will manage it together.

If you are ministering the chalice

Follow the priest up to the altar after the Sign of Peace. Bow at steps. Move to left hand side of altar, up to the side table. There will be a larger bowl of water here and towels. Cleanse hands (symbolic gesture) and return down to side of altar. Don't rush this. Father will wait.

Both ministers receive, extending hands towards priest, stepping back slightly to make way for each other as necessary. The minister furthest away from altar then moves forward to receive the chalice first and then clear way for other to receive.

Wait for priest to give the host to altar servers. Offer them the wine and then move off altar and to the 2 sides in order to minister to congregation. Father will follow. Stand quite a long way to the corner to avoid congestion. "The blood of Christ".

Go back up to side table when everyone has received. (Check Choir have been down. If not, one minister follow priest down the aisle to serve from doorway.) If priest goes to someone in pew, follow with chalice.

At side table consume any remaining wine and clean plates/ other items from the altar, using water and the little altar cloths. Slightly damp cloths are most effective. Priest will help consume excess wine.

Wait until both ministers are ready and then leave altar quietly, bowing below steps.

If you are ministering the Eucharist

Cleanse fingers at side table and then move to the right of the altar. Move up after priest has received. Receive when the priest offers, both kinds. Return the chalice. You will be given the vessel containing hosts.

Follow the priest and with him, offer host to altar servers. Follow the ministers of the wine down to front of church, standing alongside the priest in the centre.

Offer the host to those before you, blessing those with an arm across their chest and also children. Don't rush- take time to select and hold one host over the plate. Someone who wishes to receive on their tongue will put their tongue out – otherwise place firmly into their

outstretched hand. "The body of Christ". If there are insufficient hosts, break hosts as necessary or return to the altar early.

Return to the altar table when you have no-one remaining to receive, there's no need to wait for the priest. You will be directed what to do at the table when the priest returns. Help cleanse pattern, now or after Mass. Go back to your place with the other ministers.

Busy Sunday masses

At a busy Mass there are normally 4 people distributing: one priest and 3 others. If a deacon or visiting priest is present, assume they will distribute and make up the shortfall.

At a quieter Mass, then only 2 ministers are needed to help Father. For exceptional services, be guided by Father (eg distributing from halfway down the aisle to the general congregation at First Holy Communion Mass.)

We will continue to be ready to serve at any Mass. Father will make a request for help from the altar if needs be. We don't need a rota.

Taking communion to the sick and housebound

Offer communion in the context of a listening, attentive visit.

There is a book to follow for the service part of the visit. Choose a suitable reading.

There is no need for the reception of communion to be delayed because of a meal.

Renewal of commitment

Annually, we will gather together to reaffirm our commitment and to be recommissioned.