

# HOLY GHOST - BALHAM

## NOTES FOR READERS

- Thank you for offering your services as a Reader in the Parish. Proclaiming the Word of God is an important ministry exercised for the benefit of the assembled community. It is, therefore, important that each reading should be prepared thoroughly before you read. If you are not clear about something – always ask in advance of reading.
- Leave your seat after the Opening Prayer of the Mass. When you are reading, it is helpful to sit near the front of the Church at the end of a bench.
- When you leave your seat – bow/genuflect centrally to the Altar - go to the Ambo, and pause before you start. Adjust the microphone if necessary – gently! Always read from the Lectionary and not from the Mass books etc. When alternative readings are given in the Lectionary, check which is in the Mass book that the people use, and read the readings that appear in the people’s book.
- Omit saying such things as:
  - “The First Reading is ...”
  - “The Responsorial Psalm ...”
  - “The Response is...”
  - “ The Second Reading is ...”
  - “The Gospel Acclamation...”
- A Reader is not a theatrical performer. However, Readers are doing something in public for the people, and therefore, it should be done to the best of their ability. The reading should be proclaimed slowly, to enable the community to absorb what is being read, and it should be clear that the passage means something to the Reader. The Reader should project his or her voice, using a good audible volume. (A microphone is nothing more than an amplifier, so it needs a good voice to amplify.) The Reader should also look up at the people from time-to-time when reading.
- After you have read, please return to your seat - again bowing/genuflecting centrally to the Altar as you go.
- For the Bidding Prayers, come up towards the end of the Creed, bowing/genuflecting centrally to the Altar, and go to the Ambo. Having read your parts, please stay at the Ambo until the priest has finished the concluding prayer – then bow/genuflect centrally to the Altar, and return to your seat. (It is essential to have read through the Bidding Prayers beforehand.)
- If you are unable to attend a Mass for which you are scheduled to read, please swap with another Reader. Telephone numbers of all Readers are sent with the rotas to facilitate this.
- Please arrive in good time if you are reading.
- A general rule for all Readers at Holy Ghost to follow is HALF THE SPEED AND TWICE THE VOLUME.

- Finally, do not over-worry about the above points. They are made in an attempt to get us to think about what we are doing as Readers, and to enable us to carry out such a ministry to the best of our ability. Again – THANK YOU!