

For all those involved in a ministry in the Church — 2

Setting the Scene



- What's it like being at Mass in your church? Think of some good points, and some that might need a bit of tweaking.
- Is there anything that particularly stands out for you at Mass? Why?
- Does being a minister help you to pray? How?
- Do you think your ministry helps others to pray? Could you explain? Is it a question of what you do, or how you do it, or both?

The Mass consists of four basic sections:

Introductory Rites:

we come together to celebrate, and prepare ourselves to listen to God's Word

Liturgy of the Word:

we listen to God's Word, and we respond. The homily breaks open the readings for us, and in the intercessions we pray for needs and concerns in the light of everything we have heard.

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

we bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar (they symbolise us). During the Eucharistic Prayer we give thanks and praise, and our gifts are transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. At Communion, we receive back those gifts so that we too can be transformed.

Concluding Rites:

we are commissioned to go out and change the world as we ourselves have been changed.

- How does your ministry fit into this plan of the Mass? What is your contribution to the prayer life of the community?
- How do you listen to the Word of God? How do you give thanks and praise?
- Do you feel changed by what takes place?
- How does the celebration you take part in affect your life as a Christian?



Different liturgical ministries in the Church

Ordained: Bishops, priests, deacons

'Instituted': Lectors, acolytes

Lay: 'Environment' (flowers, banners and hangings, cleaners)...
Readers, Ministers of Communion, Servers, Welcomers...
Leaders of Liturgy of the Word with Children...
Musicians (cantor, choir, instrumentalist)...
Liturgy Preparation team

Any others you can think of?

Useful resources

Our national Liturgy Office website:

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>

What happens at Mass

Jeremy Driscoll OSB, Gracewing, ISBN 0-85244-637-3

A discussion document on lay ministry:

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Opportunities/Ministry/I013-LayMinistry.pdf>

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