



Appreciating Ministries.

The Ministry of Lector (reading Scripture at Liturgy).

What can one say when appreciating the work, the ministry of the Reader at Mass (the Lector)?

In one of the best lines from the Oscar-nominated screenplay for *Shadowlands*, C.S. Lewis (played by Anthony Hopkins) tells a new student that people read to know they are not alone. Indeed, reading brings us into a world real and imaginary, introduces us to people wise and foolish, and provides us with knowledge and insight. Reading brings to us other voices with different perspectives. The American novelist Eudora Welty wrote that from the time she was a child and was introduced to the world of books, she knew that, whether her mother read to her or she was reading to herself, the voice she heard was not her voice or her mother's but the voice of the text...the text has a voice - sometimes more than one - that speaks to us and, when we read to others, it speaks through us.

In his apostolic exhortation *THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL*, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of an adequate preparation by preachers in order to fulfil their responsibility of communicating the word of God during the eucharistic celebration. Much of what he says there can be applied to lectors - deepening one's awareness that God truly intends to reach out to others through the biblical word (and the voice of the lector);that effective liturgy requires study, prayer, reflection and practice (by the lector).

In a world clamouring for our attention in so many ways...the lector stands to proclaim (not simply read) God's word. Sometimes it can seem daunting even to try to hold the attention of any gathering often marked by diversity in culture, ethnicity, education, and age. Yet, more than ever do people need to hear clearly and passionately a word that is LIFE-GIVING, that has the power to evoke faith, hope and love, and that can lead a congregation from autonomy to community so as to engage them more wholeheartedly in the worship of the God who gather them together as one Body with Christ as their head. [James A. Wallace, The Ministry of Lectors]

The Holy Spirit calls each of us to a ministry in our community - some in the background, some during our liturgies - and provides the grace to enter it.

What ministry draws you? Do you let yourself be drawn?

How do you feel about your current ministry? What gift of service do others in the community appreciate about you?

If you are interested in becoming a Lector(Reader) or Commentator please speak to Fr Paul or Len.