

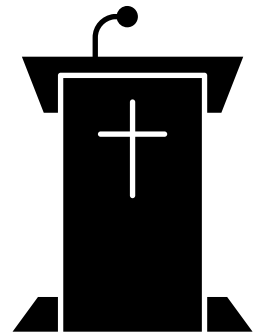
Overview

ACN Mission:

This resource supports ACN's mission of prayer, action and information. By providing formation/training for Ministers of the Word in schools (staff and pupils), their reading of scripture can assist in meaningful participation in the Liturgy. This can then lead to members of the community going to 'love and serve the Lord' through their prayers, actions and generous giving. For many of us going to Mass and listening to God's word can be a regular experience which offers peace and spiritual security. However, for some Christians throughout the world it is a tremendous challenge to go to Mass and hear God's word, due to poverty, war or persecution. Therefore, this resource also aims to raise awareness of these injustices and encourages solidarity.

This Resource:

This resource confines itself to the Ministry of the Word in the Liturgy. The focus is the Liturgy of the Word at Mass but many of the principles and practical guidance will apply to other liturgical celebrations. It is aimed at KS2 pupils (Y4-6) but it can be adapted for older or younger pupils through the sharing of notes provided.



The Sessions:

These simple training sessions are divided into five themes which are:

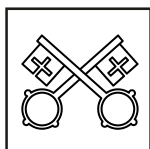
1. What is the Word of God and how should it be proclaimed?
2. What is the Liturgy of the Word and how does it link to the Mass?
3. What are prayers of the faithful and how should they be written and/or read?
4. What are the psalms and the Gospel acclamation and how should they be proclaimed?
5. What are the roles and responsibilities of a minister of the word?

Each of the sessions will include:



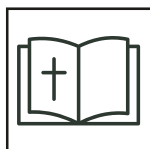
a)

An opening prayer



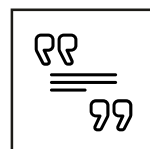
b)

Information about Church teaching and/or Tradition



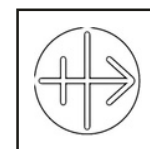
c)

Scripture



d)

Spiritual reflection



e)

Link to ACN



f)

Examples for practice



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The sessions are available as PowerPoint presentations with notes for those leading the training. There are also Word documents to support the training where appropriate. Each session is designed to last approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on the length of discussion. Leaders can choose to do each session in one or two parts to ensure quality.

Relevance to the Prayer and Liturgy Directory (PLD)

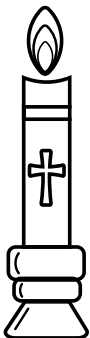
- People need to assist with specific roles e.g. readers (p. 12)
- They should be well formed and properly prepared because it is important in our worship of God that we offer something which is worthy (p. 12)
- Allocating roles, such as reading or leading intercessions, should not be treated as a means of distributing tasks in order to generate participation (p. 12)
- It is important that they receive formation in the roles they undertake (p.13)
- Those entrusted with ministries should be representative of the whole school community (p.13)
- In addition to appropriate time being set aside for the celebration of liturgy, it is important to dedicate time to formation and rehearsal so that those with particular ministries are helped to prepare adequately. This will include the opportunity for spiritual reflection as well as practical rehearsal, and allow pupils to assist with confidence and skill (p. 14)
- Those leading formation should observe any relevant diocesan policy or refer to diocesan guidelines on good practice (p. 14)

The Religious Education Directory (RED)

- Pupils will know: The work of Christian charitable organisations that help people facing injustice and persecution because of their beliefs, e.g., Aid to the Church in Need (p. 181)
- Lived religion elements, for example: The experience of persecuted Christians today and the work of the Aid to the Church in Need (p. 237)

Intended Audience

This resource is intended for those who are leaders in primary schools, especially those who are responsible for prayer and liturgy. It is also appropriate for parishes and catechists. The training sessions are designed for baptised pupils who have not yet been fully initiated into the Catholic faith (i.e. been confirmed and received their First Holy Communion) due to their age. The training should be led by a designated practising Catholic.





Minister of the word prayers

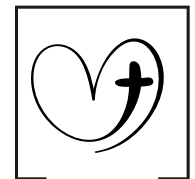
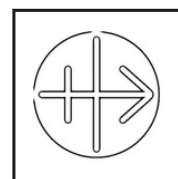
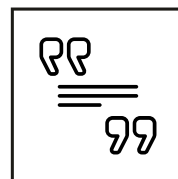
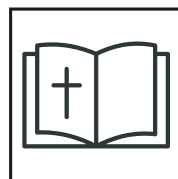
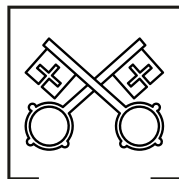
Encourage pupils to say a short prayer before/after they perform their ministry. Here are some examples, although you/they could always compose more personal ones.

Before

- Lord, help me to read to bring glory to you and to help build people up. Amen.
- Lord, thank you for your word. Help me to do my best to proclaim it today. Open our hearts so that we may hear your message. Amen.
- Lord Jesus, I am about to proclaim your word. Please help me to understand it deeply and to share it with others clearly and respectfully. Amen.
- Holy Spirit, guide my tongue as I read God's word. May my voice be a clear and joyful proclamation of love. Amen.
- Come, Holy Spirit (repeat) or Come, Lord Jesus (repeat).

After

- Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of proclaiming your word. May I always strive to live according to your teachings. Amen.
- Holy Spirit, help me to remember the word I have proclaimed and to put it into practice in my life. Amen.



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