

For all those involved in The Ministry of Deacon



1. Will I have to change anything I do?

You will need to know the same changes to sung and spoken responses and prayers as everyone else, and in particular the new texts that you will be asked to say instead of those you use at present. These are quite extensive and include:

- invocations in the Penitential Rite
- request for a blessing before proclaiming the Gospel
- the announcement “The Gospel of the Lord” at the end of the Gospel
- the four new dismissals at the end of Mass

You’ll also need to become used to a different altar missal and possibly other booklets during the time of transition from the old missal to the new one.

The new altar missal is due to be published in three formats:

- (a) Altar edition.
- (b) Chapel edition.
- (c) Study edition.

2. Are there any texts in the Mass that speak especially to my ministry?

Bearing in mind the threefold diaconal ministry of charity, word and altar, the following are useful for reflection:

Ministry of Charity

Both the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation

Ministry of the Word

The priest’s blessing of the deacon before the Gospel:

May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips
that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well...



Ministry at the Altar

In Eucharistic Prayer II:

We offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

3. What other aspects of my ministry could I look at?

Some dioceses have produced or are currently preparing comprehensive liturgical guidelines for deacons. It will be worth getting hold of these and studying them carefully.

Useful resources

Our national Liturgy Office website:

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

especially

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Ministry/Deacon.pdf>

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Documents/GIRM.pdf>

and its companion Celebrating the Mass

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/GIRM/Documents/GIRM.pdf>

PDF of the revised Order of Mass:

www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Missal/Text

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