

## Preparing to Serve

In preparing to serve each week:

- Look at the readings and prayers of the Mass and use them for your prayer.
- Reflect on how they speak of the love of God for all, and the quality of life that they call us to make our own
- Spend time in prayer, praying for yourself, and the other parish ministers—that the service you will offer will help people participate fruitfully in the Mass.
- Ask for the grace to be attentive both as a minister and as a member of the assembly throughout the celebration.
- Ensure that you will be at church in good time to carry out any necessary preparations for Mass.

*Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.* Mark 10: 43–45

God of power and mercy,  
only with your help  
can we offer you  
fitting service and praise.

May we live the faith we profess  
and trust your promise of eternal life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

Collect: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

-----

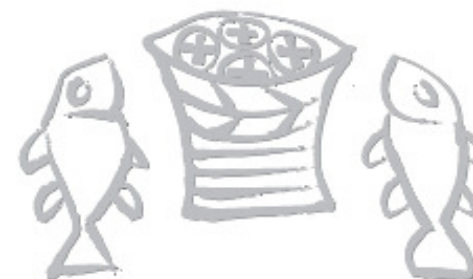
If you would like to find out more about this ministry, or would like to give your time to assist in this ministry, please feel free to contact any of the Servers or

Fr. Robert at:

Phone: 322-2304 / 863-7260

E-mail: [Leong\\_R@msn.com](mailto:Leong_R@msn.com)

## Servers and their ministry at Mass



O come, bless the Lord,  
all you who serve the Lord,  
who stand in the house of the Lord,  
in the courts of the house of our God.

Psalm 133

**T**he Eucharist is the vital centre of all that the Church is and does. At its heart is the real presence of the crucified, risen and glorified Lord, who continues his saving work among us. The Second Vatican Council reminded us: 'the most holy Eucharist holds within itself the whole spiritual treasure of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Passover and our living bread'. (cf. One Bread One Body 3)

All who exercise a liturgical ministry need a proper preparation for their responsibilities. They are to have the competence to perform the particular ministry with which they have been entrusted. (cf. Celebrating the Mass 29)

*This leaflet is one of a series of leaflets prepared for liturgical ministers to help them refresh their understanding of their role at Mass.*

**Our Lady of Immaculate Conception**

P.O. Box 145,

Seria KB1133

Brunei Darussalam

Tel: 322-2304

Fax: 322-4225

Website: [www.clicseria.com](http://www.clicseria.com)

## WHAT THE CHURCH SAYS ABOUT ...

### *The ministry of the server*

Service at the altar represents a long liturgical tradition. Servers exercise their ministry within the assembly and enhance the quality of celebration for the whole assembly by taking part in processions and by ensuring that all requisites for the celebration are available at the appropriate moments.

- Servers hold the book while the presiding priest proclaims the presidential prayers with outstretched hands. They bring and hold such things as books, thuribles, water jug and towel, plates and dishes, and microphones. They lead the entrance and concluding processions with the cross and candles; they escort the priest (or deacon) to the ambo and stand at his side while he proclaims the Gospel reading. They may, on more solemn occasions, accompany the procession with the gifts. They look after the thurible, prepare it for the priest or deacon, and themselves may incense the assembly and other ministers.

- The number of servers will depend upon the circumstances and the tasks to be performed. Especially at large scale celebrations, there should be a competent minister or master of ceremonies with responsibility for ensuring that these various tasks are properly assigned and carried out.

**T**o be an altar server is a special honour and a great privilege in the Catholic Church. The primary role of the altar server is to assist the priest in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. This is done through specific actions and by active participation in the liturgy.

Servers should be mature enough to understand their responsibilities and to carry them out well and with appropriate reverence. They should have already received Holy Communion for the first time and normally receive the Eucharist whenever they participate in the liturgy.

Proper formation will be given before they begin to function. The formation will include instruction on the Mass and its part and their meaning, the various objects used in the liturgy (their names and use), and the various functions of the server during the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Servers will also receive appropriate guidance on maintaining proper decorum and attire when serving Mass and other functions. †