

Arundel and Brighton Day of Reflection for Readers – 2024-01-20

Resources

The Wednesday Word

[The Wednesday Word Parish Resource | The Wednesday Word Initiative](#)

This is a useful resource to help you prepare for reading at the Sunday Mass.

For example, 4th Sunday of the Ordinary Time: [826-B-Ord-04-2024.pdf \(wednesdayword.org\)](#)

Bishop Richard's weekly podcast

[Bishop | Our Diocese \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](#)

The New Lectionary

The Lectionary is changing for all the Catholic parishes in England and Wales (and probably in Scotland and Ireland). The new Lectionary will be in use from the First Sunday in Advent, 1st December 2024.

What is changing?

Currently, all the bible readings used at Mass are taken from the 1966 Jerusalem Bible. A new translation of the Bible has been approved for the Catholic Churches in England and Wales, starting in Advent 2024. The text of the Mass and the prayers will not change, but all the psalms and readings will change. So instead of the readings coming from the Jerusalem Bible, the translation that will be used is the English Standard Version (ESV). The psalms that are used for Mass have also been retranslated

[New Lectionary for England and Wales - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

[New Lectionary to be launched in England and Wales for Advent 2024 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

Buy the English Standard Version: [ESV-CE Catholic Bible, Anglicized - SPCK ESV-CE Bibles - SPCK Publishing](#)

Will I need a new Missal from Advent 2024? If you use a printed Missal to follow the readings at Mass, then yes.

Why is it changing?

The Jerusalem Bible has been translated from a French translation, which in turn has been translated from the original Greek translation of the Bible.

What is going to happen?

This has been a process that has been going on for several years, but now everything has been approved, there is a very tight schedule to print the new lectionaries (there will be 4 volumes) so each Parish and chapel can have the new lectionary for December 2024. It is hoped that these will be available from September 2024.

Music

The words to the psalms will change, and currently publishers are working on new settings. Because of the tight (very tight) deadlines for compilation, printing and distribution, publishers are also working on on-line versions of the psalms etc.

How can I get the new readings?

Englis Standard Version Bible

The bibles are available from book shops as well from Amazon (Kindle edition also available)

Mass readings:

Universalis will have the new translations for the readings. If you are a reader, it is worth subscribing to Universalis [Universalis home page](#). There are versions for Apple phones, android phones and also desktop versions for Windows and Apple Mac, The cost is about £20 for all devices and is a lifetime subscription (or £10 for one type of device).

Sunday Missals

These should be available later in 2024

The Mass

Structure of the Liturgy

The Mass falls into two parts, the Liturgy of the Word centred on the Ambo (sometimes known as the Lectern) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist which is celebrated at the Altar. The Liturgy of the Word is where the Word of God is proclaimed and explained, broken open for the congregation to understand and reflect on what they have heard.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist takes place at the Altar, the altar of sacrifice where the where the Holy Eucharist is consecrated; where Jesus Christ becomes present to us and for us: body, blood, soul, and divinity. We, the faithful need to be fed at both tables.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Ambo

The liturgy of the word takes place at the Ambo (or Lectern). This is a sacred space, and should be treated with reverence, for here the Word of God is proclaimed to the faithful.

The readings

For the Sunday liturgy, there are two readings, separated by a psalm and followed by the Gospel which can only be read by a deacon or a priest. Where possible, the psalm and the Gospel acclamation should be sung.

The first reading and psalm

The first reading is from the Old Testament, except for the Sundays of Easter, where the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. The first reading highlights the Gospel reading, for instance, for the 2nd Sunday of the year, Year B, the Gospel is Jesus calling Simon Peter and his brother Andrew to follow him. This call is echoed in the first reading from the first book of Samuel, where God calls Samuel. The psalm then echoes the meaning of the first reading.

The second reading

The second reading is from the New Testament and is taken from the letters written to the early Churches. These readings do not necessarily relate to the Gospel of the day. If they do, then it is a happy coincidence. The letters are serialised, for example, from the 2nd to the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, (*January – February 2024*) the second reading is taken from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians chapters 6 – 9.

The Gospel

The reading of the Gospel is the centre piece of the Liturgy of the word. Feast days and solemnities have their own readings (Gospel, first reading, psalm and second reading). Most of the Sundays of

the year follow the three-year cycle. In Year A, the Gospel of Matthew is read, in Year B it is the Gospel of Mark – padded out with some readings from John’s Gospel as Mark’s Gospel is very short and Year C it is the Gospel of Luke. 2024 is Year B, and the Gospel is mainly from Mark’s Gospel.

Reading at Mass

Reading at mass in the Liturgy of the Word involves: Prayer, Preparation, Practice, Proclamation and the Practicalities of reading. What it is not is a Performance.

Prayer

Before Mass

Pray the scripture you are to read. Set aside some time to read and pray with your reading. What is God saying to you in the reading? What is God saying to you in the other readings of the Mass? Pray for the congregation, that they will hear and digest the word of God

Just before reading

Lord, may your Word be heard today, and not my voice

After Mass

Prayer of thanksgiving for the opportunity to read.

Preparation

Find your reading on the Universalis website (if you do not subscribe Universalis on your phone or tablet)

Read the reading beforehand. Check out the readings for the coming Sunday on the Wednesday Word.

The Wednesday Word

[The Wednesday Word Parish Resource](#) | [The Wednesday Word Initiative](#)

Practice

Do read your reading out loud beforehand. You don’t need to know it off by heart, but you do need to know where the tricky sections are, where the difficult names are. Be comfortable with the reading so you can make (occasional) eye contact with the congregation.

Proclamation

As a reader you are there to proclaim scripture to the people of God. Speak clearly, so the congregation can hear the word of God. The aim is to read clearly enough so members of the congregation can hear the Word of God without having to follow a printed version. Do not read too fast, do not be afraid of the occasional pause or silence to allow the congregation to absorb what is being read.

The type of literature

The Holy Scriptures are a body of work with several different kinds of writings, and this will influence how you are to read the scripture before you. There are histories, such the Acts of the Apostles telling the story of the early Church after the Resurrection or 1 and 2 Samuel with the accounts of the lives of the prophets Samuel and Elijah and the story of King David. There is poetry, such as the psalms and the Song of Solomon. There are the works of the Prophets, the Wisdom literature. There are letters to the early Churches, such as Paul’s letter to the Romans.

If you are reading, you need to know what kind of writing is involved.

Practicalities

Check list for readers

- Arrive in good time
- Check the lectionary on the lectern (Ambo).
- Find out who your co-reader is (for Sunday/feast day Masses)
- Familiarise yourself with the bidding prayers for the day if you are the second reader.

- Sit near the front of the Church, and at the end of a pew so you can get out easily to approach the Sanctuary.
- Familiarise yourself with the microphone on the lectern
- Remember your reading glasses if they are needed.

Suitability of readings

Yes, all the readings come from Scripture. But not all of them are suitable for every reader, especially children. Those who co-ordinate the Sunday readers should bear this in mind and discuss difficult or contentious readings with the readers concerned.

For example, Year C, 32nd Sunday of the year (first Sunday in November), the first reading is from 2Maccabees 7:1-14. This makes for grim reading and may not be suitable for some readers. The reason why it is included is because it is the first mention of God raising the dead to life.

The Bidding Prayers/Prayer of the Faithful

The bidding prayers close the Liturgy of the Word.

Format of the Prayer of the Faithful

Opening Prayer is said by the celebrant.

The reader reads 4-6 short intentions. Each intention is followed by a short period of silence, so the congregation can take the prayer intention into their hearts, followed by a communal response.

At the end of the prayers, the reader remains at the Ambo (lectern) while the celebrant concludes with a closing prayer.

The reader returns to his/her seat after the congregation says Amen.

For more information about writing the Bidding Prayers: [Prayer of the Faithful Guidelines \(website-files.com\)](http://Prayer of the Faithful Guidelines (website-files.com))

Practical Considerations

- Before Mass, check that the prayers are on the Ambo (lectern) and also that there is a copy of the prayers on the Altar for the priest.
- Read each intention clearly and then pause to allow the congregation to pray silently in their hearts for the intention before you announce the response.
- Wait on the priest says the closing prayer and the congregation responds Amen before you return to your seat.

The Hail Mary

The Hail Mary may be said at the end of the Bidding prayers - before the closing prayer. This is not a prayer to Mary. The inclusion of the Hail Mary in the liturgy in England predates the Second Vatican Council, and as such, a customary prayer, we are allowed to include the Hail Mary in our Bidding Prayers. Since Anglo Saxon times (pre-Norman Conquest) to Henry VIII's reformation, England had a great devotion to Our Lady as the Dowry of Mary. On the 29th of March 2020, England was rededicated to the Virgin Mary.