



GoSS News

A Newsletter for Altar Servers In the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

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Guild of St Stephen Adelaide members - (from left) Paul Della, Michael Mulvihill, Archbishop Philip Wilson, Samson Mbiko, Fr Joseph Lee SDB and David Della after Mass at the Jamberoo Chapel.

Guild of St Stephen members from across Australia celebrated the final mass of their 5 day conference/camp here before proceeding to Jamberoo Action Park for a day of fun activities!

Welcome from our Chaplain Fr Joseph Lee SDB

A New Start in Adelaide

Welcome to this first issue of GoSS News.

The Guild of St. Stephen has been in the Archdiocese of Adelaide before. Our training advisor Mike Mulvihill, himself an altar server of many years experience, can tell us about that. Now we are starting again.

The state convenor and assistant convenor, Paul Della and his son David respectively, have attended the national conferences.

With approval from His Grace Archbishop Philip Wilson, the Guild has re-started in the Archdiocese in 2011. This newsletter is one more positive move towards consolidating a branch of a Catholic group especially dedicated to altar servers. We invite you to be involved.

Later this year we will hear about the Year of Grace. Catholics in Australia are called to start afresh from Christ. The Year of Grace runs from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013.

At the end of the Great Jubilee Year 2000, Blessed John Paul II also called on Catholic people to start afresh from Christ.

There is no better place to start from. Jesus is the Lord we serve, whom St Stephen loved and gave his life for.

Serve the Lord with gladness,

Fr. Joe

GoSS on Facebook

Why not become a member of both the official National Guild of St Stephen Facebook Page and the Archdiocese of Adelaide Guild of St Stephen Facebook page?! (remember you have to be 13 years or older to join Facebook.)

The GoSS Facebook pages highlights up and coming events and provides a means for altar servers and Guild of St Stephen members to remain in contact with each other.

These are closed groups so a current member has to add you so email us at gossadelaide@gmail.com to be admitted as a member!

What begins well before Mass starts and doesn't finish until well after Mass Ends? Serving!!!

Being a good server means preparing well for Mass in both prayerful and practical ways.

Arriving five minutes before Mass starts doesn't leave time for all the preparation required to ensure that everything is prepared for the liturgy to run smoothly, so try to arrive at the Sacristy at least 20 minutes before Mass starts. Put on your alb, check the Ordo which outlines the liturgy of the day or with Father to determine the appropriate color cincture to wear and to see if there is anything different from the norm to prepare for.

Check with your Parish Priest the duties he would like you to perform - sometimes parishes have Sacristans that assist in preparing for masses so it is important not to step on people's toes and it is also important to obey the instructions given by your Parish Priest or the particular Priest rostered on at a Mass. The key to being a good server is adaptability so whatever you do and whichever way it is done, even if it might not be done the way you have been taught or what you might consider to be the correct way, if you do it with reverence and if you are following the Priest's instructions you have done your duty well.

By way of an example however, when servers arrive 20 minutes before Mass starts in our Parish, they:

- fill the cruets with wine (ensuring that there is enough for however many chalices are being used) and water
- place an appropriate number of hosts in the Communion Bowl or Ciborium (and a larger host for the Priest to use during the consecration - the size of which varies from Priest to Priest) to enable Communion to be provided to all present (the cruet of water is placed on the Credence Table (the small table to the side of the Sanctuary) and the Communion Bowl or Ciborium and cruet of wine is placed on the appropriate table in the main body of the Church to be brought to the altar during the Presentation of the Gifts.)
- place the hand bowl, finger towel, purifiers, chalices and corporal on the Credence Table.
- light the altar, tabernacle and devotional candles and then the processional candles
- ensure that the key is in the Tabernacle
- check that there are microphones on the sanctuary and that they are turned on.
- check that the lectionary is open to the appropriate readings.
- check that the book containing the Prayers of the Faithful is out for both the Reader and the Priest (in our Parish, depending on the Priest, a server might hold this for them during the Creed and Prayers of the Faithful.
- check that there is a Parish Bulletin in easy reach of the Priest
- check that the lights are on
- check that the fans/air-conditioners are on (depending on the weather!)
- check that the collection plates are out and if there is a special collection, who it is for and advise the collectors.
- in collaboration with the other servers work out duties for the Mass eg who will hold the books for the priest, who will set the altar, who will ring the bells etc. This will in part depend on the training the servers have received, the amount of practice they have had and their confidence levels—but nothing beats practice and having a more experienced server along side you to assist!
- say a quiet prayer asking God to help them to serve well at Mass and then they all bow to the Cross before leaving the sacristy.
- greet people as they arrive at the Church as we wait to process in; and
- ring the bell in the porch at the time Mass is due to start so that the people know when to stand and musicians know when to start playing!

Just because Mass has ended doesn't mean that a server can make a quick run for it and go home! There are duties that a server must do after the Mass and final hymn have finished - for want of a better description, **tidying up** could be the term used!!

For example candles need to be extinguished, the tabernacle key brought in along with the cruets, chalices and communion bowl (these later items should be rinsed in the Sacramarium that can be found in the Sacristy). Dirty linen should be placed in the appropriate place for cleaning. Two servers might bring the collection money in and transfer it to the appropriate bags (if you do something similar in your Parish, please always ensure two people handle any money - this is very important.) Any other items that were set up for Mass should also be removed, the exception being, if there is another Mass on after yours, you may like to help the servers for the next Mass by setting up some items for them—remember, We Serve the Lord, the Priests and each other! So helping out our fellow servers is an admirable thing!

Quiz—What is a Sacramarium used for and where is it located in a Church? The first correct answer to this question drawn on 29 February from the responses received will win a \$50 iTunes voucher! Email gossadelaide@gmail.com or post your answer in to PO Box 310 Brooklyn Park SA 5032.

The Entrance Procession - Order of Entry.

Who goes first when processing in and out of the Church at Mass on Sunday?

Why don't you try putting the following people in the order they should line up to process into the Church—first to last:

Priest, Processional Cross bearer, Thurifer, Candle bearers, Boat bearer, Book of the Gospels bearer, Deacon.

How did you go? Did you have the order something like this?

1. Thurifer (with Boat Bearer alongside or behind the Processional Cross)
2. Processional Cross
3. Candle Bearers (if there is enough room in the aisle they should be alongside the Processional Cross)
4. Deacon (carrying the book of the Gospels) *if there was no Deacon present a lay person would carry this in
5. Priest

And what if there is a Bishop or Archbishop present? The order might continue something like this:

6. Bishop or Archbishop
7. Master of Ceremonies
8. Mitre Bearer and Crosier Bearer

Of course when Mass is ended the same order is followed to leave the Church (except the Thurible will probably be back in the Sacristy and the Processional Cross Bearer will lead the procession out.

GoSS Conference/Camp Report

“We had fun at the Conference and particularly enjoyed Mass at the Jamberoo Abbey on the last day with Archbishop Wilson and Father Joe Lee SDB before proceeding to the Jamberoo Action Park!”

David Della & Samson Mbiko

Five days of prayer, learning, good food, fun and friendship were had at the 20th Guild of St Stephen National Conference/Camp for Altar Servers held at the Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops in the Wollongong Diocese from 2-6 January 2012. The conference was dedicated to the loving memory of the Guild's 2nd National Director, the Rev Monsignor John Joseph Murphy OAM PE who passed away on 14 November 2011.

In reports provided by two of the approximately 100 people attending, David Della and Samson Mbiko from the St John Bosco/St Aloysius Parish made the comment that “We had fun....and particularly enjoyed Mass at the Jamberoo Abbey on the last day with Archbishop Wilson and Father Joe Lee SDB before proceeding to the Jamberoo Action Park.”

Each day of the conference, there was morning and night prayer which involved a lot of singing and as Samson commented “I learnt a new language” (Latin!). Attendees were split into groups and concurrent sessions were held each day on the new Music settings, Altar Serving Practice (including things like how to use the Thurible), Advanced Altar Serving, Scripture and the revised texts/responses and Vocations. Mass was held every day and Bishop Peter Ingham, Bishop of Wollongong celebrated one Mass with us as did Bishop Peter Comensoli, one of the Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney. We also enjoyed a dance night and quiz night as part of our social activities!

If your Parish or School has a person interested in teaching servers but would like some support we can help!

Or, if your School or Parish would like some assistance in training servers we can help with this too!

Contact us and we will be happy to assist!

Phone 8352 3561

GoSS Raffle - Win a Trip to the Gold Coast!

We are conducting a raffle with the prize being a trip for 2 Adults and 2 Children to the Gold Coast! The lucky winner will stay at the world famous 4 1/2 star Sea World Resort & Water Park with entry into Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet 'n' Wild Water World.

Helpers are needed to sell books of 20 tickets @ \$2 per ticket (\$40 per book).

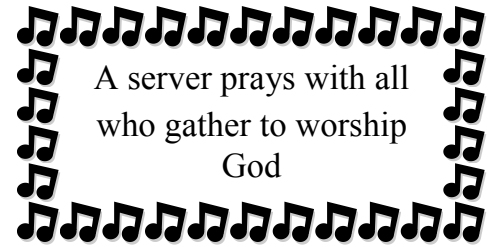
If you can help sell tickets or would like to purchase some please call 8352 3561 or email

gossadelaide@gmail.com

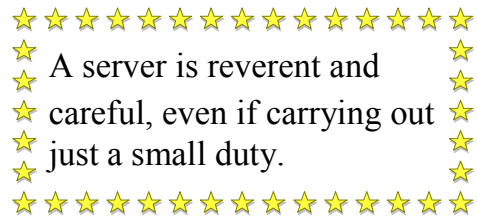


Prayers for Altar Servers

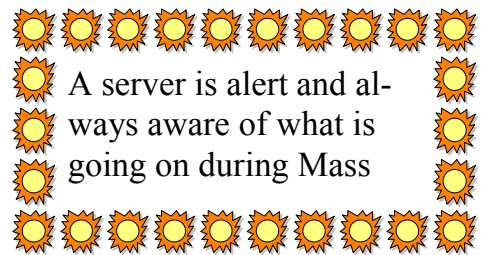
I rejoiced when I heard them say,
'Let us go to the Lord's house'.
Psalm 121



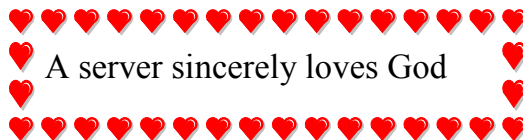
I will go up to the altar of God,
God my highest joy
and praise you my God.
Psalm 42



Thank you God,
for calling me to serve at your altar.
Help me to be calm and joyful,
reverent and prayerful.
Help me to remember everything
and do my tasks well so that
our community can give you praise.
I make this prayer in the name of Jesus.
Amen



A server is reliable - a member of
a team working for God's glory



Jesus served others..
Let us model our actions on Jesus.