

# Called To Serve

December 2021



***Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Sc 14***

Through the people who gather each Sunday the Church stands as a living sign of Christ's presence and action in the world today. The Parish is responsible for ensuring that the liturgy it celebrates is well prepared and beautifully executed, that people understand the call to go forth in service from the liturgy, and, that it has protocols in place to ensure the safety of all who gather.

The faithful are called to be active participants in the liturgy. The assembly or the Church gathered, is called to a participation in each rite that is full, conscious and active. The people participate by gathering, by being conscious of what they are doing, by singing, by saying the prayers, by engaging with the dialogues, by listening to the readings and by being present to one another as the Body of Christ. Through this participation the rite can take place. This is the ministry of the people gathered, the ministry of the assembly.

Beyond the ministry of the assembly, individuals or groups are called to participate so that various elements of the rite may take place in the best possible way. Such participation includes the contribution of people in various ministry roles; Reader of God's Word, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Greeter, Usher, Commentator, Reader of the Universal Prayers, Musician, Choir, Leader of Children's Liturgy of the Word, Lay Leader of the Liturgy of the Word, Sacristan, Minister Communion of the Sick.

Part of our tradition is to call people to fill these ministries. It is important that a parish calls people from a range of ages, gender and ethnic backgrounds, as reflects the community, to fill these ministries. It is important too, that people hear, respond, and feel encouraged to come forward to fill these ministries.

While a parish must be active in calling people forward, it is also important to reserve for itself an opportunity to discern that ministries are filled appropriately and that the safety of individuals and the community, particularly the safety of the vulnerable, is maintained. The vulnerable includes children, youth, the elderly and anyone with impaired ability or compromised health.

Both physical and emotional safety ought to be considered under the umbrella of safety. In this time of Global Pandemic, it especially

***For the liturgy ... is the outstanding means whereby the faithful may express in their lives, and manifest to others, the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.***

SC - 2

***Every liturgical celebration, because it is an action of Christ the priest and of His Body which is the Church, is a sacred action surpassing all others.***

SC 7

***Refer General Instruction of the Roman Missal (NZ) 98 - 107; Particular Ministries***

important to have protocols in place to protect vulnerable people from the Covid-19 virus since church gatherings are places of risk. Importance is placed on adhering to the NZ Government [Covid-19 Protection Framework](#), the NZ Government [Guidelines for Places of Worship](#), and all other Ministry of Health Guidelines. The Pastoral letter from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand, [Living Caring worshipping and Ministering in a Covid-19 World](#) is also available for guidance.

A physically safe environment includes the need for people in some ministry positions to attend Safe-guarding training, be police vetted and sign a code of conduct, while for others, vaccination may be required. If a minister develops cold or flu symptoms, it is preferable that they stay home and someone else fills their ministry on that day.

In an emotionally safe environment people will listen considerately and speak respectfully to each other. They will make every effort to work together cooperatively and harmoniously.

When determining who to place in liturgical roles, time and opportunity for discernment and conversation about the needs of the role, is helpful. Those coming forward should also understand that their ministry is for a set period of time, as determined by the parish. This could range between two and four years. They should also understand that training and ongoing formation are important aspects of ministry.

Serving your community as a liturgical minister can be very rewarding and faith-building. Therefore, it is desirable that a person only fills one ministry position. In this way, more people can be encouraged to serve as ministers and receive the benefits gained from this participation.

The form below may be helpful when calling people into ministry.

**Ministry - Called to Serve**

Church ministry is a response to a twofold call; the call of God to serve, and the call of the community to a specific ministry. Ministry is a privilege which carries responsibilities. People do not have a right to serve, rather, they are called forth by the community to ministry.

Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details

phone \_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_  
address \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry - Circle one

- Reader of God's Word ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Extraordinary Minister Holy Communion Vaccination against Covid-19 required
- Communion of the Sick ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 & completion of Safeguarding process required
- Greeter ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Usher ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Commentator ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Reader of the Universal Prayers ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Musician ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Singer / Choir ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 recommended
- Leader, Children or Youth Choir ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 & completion of Safeguarding process required
- Leader; Children's Liturgy of the Word ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 & completion of Safeguarding process required
- Lay Leader of the Liturgy of the Word ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 required
- Sacristan ... .. Vaccination against Covid-19 & completion of Safeguarding process required

I feel called to this ministry because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I am willing to undergo Safeguarding training and police vetting Yes / No
- I am willing to sign a code of conduct Yes / No
- I am willing to undergo ongoing (annual) formation for this ministry Yes / No
- I am willing to be peer mentored Yes / No
- I understand that my ministry will be for a limited time period Yes / No
- I am willing to disclose my vaccination status to parish administrators Yes / No

The parish of ..... thanks you for your participation in our community, for helping to make our community a sign of Christ's loving presence in the world today, for engaging with the Mission the Church has received from Christ and for taking time to fill in this form.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By completing this form, I consent to my information being stored and used for the liturgical/pastoral ministry and administrative purposes of ..... Parish. I understand that my data will be held securely and that I have a right to access my information. I understand that when this information is no longer required for this purpose, my data will be disposed of according to the Diocesan Parish Record Retention and Disposal procedure. Please return this form to your Parish Office