

Durham Martyrs Eucharistic Minister guidelines

Leanne produces the rota and manages the Whatsapp groups, sending a reminder each Thursday evening for the following weekend.

All ministers go to the sanctuary at the Sign of Peace so you can join in saying the Lamb of God from the side of the altar. Leave space for the priest to get to the credence table to sanitise his hands and purify his chalice. There is hand sanitiser on the credence table for you to use before you receive your Host if you wish.

The priest will give all ministers a Host, they all then sanitise their hands and the priest will then offer the chalice to two of the ministers. These will take the chalice from the priest, and one will then offer the chalice to the remaining minister. The priest will then give a ciborium to the remaining minister.

One minister with a chalice will follow the priest to one side aisle, the other minister with a chalice will follow the minister with the ciborium to the other side aisle. There may be members of the congregation who need to receive Holy Communion at their seats, once these have been served, the priest and ministers take up positions at the side aisles.

Once everyone has received communion, the ministers with the chalices will consume any remaining Precious Blood and purify the chalices and ciborium at the credence table. If a minister does not wish to consume the remainder, another minister can do this for them, or the priest will consume it.

The minister with the ciborium should place it on the altar and wait for the priest to empty any remaining Hosts into one ciborium. The priest will usually return the full ciborium to the tabernacle. The minister can then take the empty ciborium to the credence table to be purified.

There may be times when the priest requests that you return the ciborium to the tabernacle. Empty any remaining Hosts from one ciborium into the other then place the lid onto the full ciborium. Place the full ciborium inside the tabernacle.

Note – at St Joseph's the ciborium and lid are taller than the opening so carefully tilt the ciborium to place it inside.

Locking the tabernacle

- at St Joseph's - turn the key anticlockwise twice to lock the door and remove the key. If there are altar servers attending, they will wait and take the key from you. If there are no altar servers, place the key on the credence table.
- at St Godric's - push the door to lock, no need to use the key.

Genuflect in front of the tabernacle before moving away.

If an altar server or other minister has not already done so, take the empty ciborium from the altar to the credence table, where one of the ministers who had a chalice will purify it.

All ministers can then leave the altar together and return to their seats