

THE SUBDEACON AT HIGH MASS

PREPARATION

Check that the Lectionary is correctly marked. Check the pronunciation of any proper names and run through the pointings. Make a mental note of the page number in case the marker falls out.

ENTRY

During the putting on of incense and the introductory prayers at the West door, the SD stands on the step to the left of the door, with the Deacon on the opposite side. After the prayers, the sanctuary party forms up, with the SD behind the MC. The Sacred Ministers enter in single file. (If there is a procession, the SM continue in single file, genuflecting at the crossing in passing).

On arrival in the sanctuary, the SD moves to the left at the point where the MC has stopped, and takes his position on the left seam of the carpet. A genuflexion is made, and the SM ascend (one step at a time) to the altar. The C and D will kiss the altar, while the SD bows.

The altar is censed, with the SD joining in all genuflexions. If the cope is in use, the SD and D hold the cope with two hands. After the last genuflexion of the censing, the SD remains on the left carpet seam while the Celebrant and Deacon complete the censing. The C and D return to the centre of the altar, and all three SM genuflect together (though some Celebrants may bow rather than genuflect). They turn and descend to the centre of the sanctuary for the Asperges. (If the cope is in use at this time, SD and D hold it with one hand only, the other being placed on the breast). If there is no boatboy, the D holds the holy water - not the SD. After the C has sprinkled those around him, the D and SD change places behind him before they move off, At the back of the church, the D and SD change places again so that they remain on the correct sides of the C. The SM return to the sanctuary, where the Collect for Purity is said. They genuflect, and go to the sedilia.

KYRIES (some Celebrants may say the Kyries alternately with the D and SD)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

GLORIA (some Celebrants may say the Gloria, in which case D and SD join with him)

COLLECT

At the end of the Collect, the D and SD should set an example by allowing the C to sit before they do so themselves. This applies whenever the SM sit at the sedilia.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

Towards the end of the Psalm, the MC will stand. The SD stands and awaits the MC, who should present the book so that the SD holds it with the front cover facing outwards. A bow is appropriate before and after the book is exchanged. The SD leads to the centre, and the MC falls in beside him. Both genuflect, and turn inwards. They proceed to the step where the lesson is sung. After the lesson, the MC and SD turn and go back to the centre of the sanctuary and genuflect. The SD kneels before the C for a blessing, stands,

and returns to his place. While facing the congregation, he returns the book to the MC. The return of the book is the cue for all in the sanctuary (except the Celebrant) to stand.

GOSPEL

The Thurifer enters. The SD and D kneel (one knee) facing slightly inwards for the blessing of incense.

Thurifer, D and SD rise together. The SD waits for the D to obtain the book from the altar. After the D has received his blessing, the SD follows him to form the Gospel procession -

| | |
|----|----|
| D | SD |
| Th | MC |
| A | A |

The MC will usually say "genuflect", to give the cue to the D and SD. They turn and process to the middle of the nave, with the SD standing between the Acolytes, holding the book. Note that it is the SD who stands between the Acolytes - not the D.

After the Gospel, the D kisses the book and closes it. The SD retains the book, and the return procession is in the following order. -

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| D | SD | MC |
| A | C | A |
| | Th | |

The SD holds the book aloft in the procession, On arrival in the sanctuary, there is a genuflection. The SD then moves forward alone to place the book in the centre of the altar. He genuflects after placing the book, moves to the right, and returns to his chair (walking squarely on the carpet).

SERMON

After the sermon, the SD is best placed to give the cue to others to stand as the MC and preacher return.

CREED

INTERCESSIONS

After the Intercessions, the SM go to the centre of the sanctuary and genuflect. As they turn around, the D and SD change places behind the C. The SM go to the step for versicles and responses, and the Greeting. The SD receives the Pax from the C, then passes it to the MC. He then joins the C in passing the Greeting to the congregation. At the back of the church, the SD changes sides with the C, so that he returns up the nave on the C's left.

On return to the sanctuary, the C and SD wait, if necessary, until the D has finished preparing the vessels. They then genuflect, and ascend to the altar. The vessels will normally have been left uncovered by the D. They are covered by the D and SD after

Blessed be God forever.

The D normally looks after the ciborium on the right and the chalice at the rear, leaving the other ciborium and the front chalice for the SD.

The SD takes no part in the blessing of incense. A bow should precede the censuring of the elements. When they are being censured, he places his right hand on the base of the front chalice (as a safety precaution). He participates in the censuring of the altar, as at the Introit, but this time, after the final genuflection, keeps moving to the right-hand end of the altar, stepping down one level as he goes. He therefore finishes next to the D, and joins with him in censuring the C.

After the C is censured, the SD goes to the centre of the bottom step to await his own censuring. After the censuring, the C, D and SD stand one behind the other on their respective steps.

When the C turns to the people to begin the Thanksgiving, the D and SD part, then return to their positions. They remain one behind the other until after the SANCTUS. As the BENEDICTUS begins, the MC will move away from the left of the C, and will indicate to the D and SD to come forward to flank the C. While at the altar, the SD is responsible for turning the pages of the missal and for pointing the place for the C.

Soon after the D and SD have arrived at the altar (i.e., during the BENEDICTUS) the elements should be uncovered. The SD attends to the vessels which he previously covered.

After the consecration of the host, the SD joins in genuflections, and covers the left-hand ciborium.

After the consecration of the wine, the SD joins in genuflections, and covers the front chalice.

During the sentence

... May we praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ

the SD uncovers the front chalice. There is a genuflection after

*... Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen*

after which the SD covers the chalice again.

The SD again uncovers the front chalice during the LORD'S PRAYER - at about the words

... Give us this day our daily bread ...

The chalice is then left uncovered.

Some Celebrants may say the *Agnus Dei* while it is being sung by the Choir. If this occurs, the D and SD say the responses, during which it is appropriate to strike the breast.

When the C says

... This is (or Behold) the Lamb of God ...,

the D and SD stand facing the C - i.e. facing inwards. It is appropriate to strike the breast when saying

... Lord, I am not worthy.

After the response is completed, C and D turn to the front again, genuflect with the C, step down and kneel on the top step for Communion.

When the D and SD have received Communion, they stand, step forward, and genuflect with the C. The C and D will normally take up the ciboria, while the SD and Crucifer/Eucharistic Assistant take the chalices. The SD should take the principal chalice, and assist the C on the Epistle side.

After administering Communion, the SD and Crucifer/EA return to the altar together. The C and D will have stood aside to make room for them at the centre of the altar. They place their chalices on the corporal, step down and kneel on the top step. All stand (following the C's lead), step onto the top step and genuflect. The SD takes up his chalice and moves by the epistle side to the table at the rear of the altar. The SD and the Crucifer/EA consume any remaining Precious Blood, and place the chalices on the table. The D, SD and Crucifer/EA then genuflect together.

The SD stands back (against the altar on the credence table side) while the Acolyte attends to the D. When the Acolyte moves away, the SD stands beside the D and assists, as required, with the ablutions and assembling of the vessels. When this has been done, D and SD return by opposite sides of the altar (SD by the Gospel side) to their places on the steps behind the C.

The D and SD remain behind the C for the Post-Communion prayers.

Theoretically, they should remain there for the first part of the Blessing, dividing again at the words

... and the Blessing of God Almighty

They should kneel on both knees (one step above their own) for the Blessing itself. There may be need for flexibility here, in that the practice of Celebrants varies. If the Celebrant turns to the people for the first part of the Blessing, D and SD divide.

The SD remains on his step until the D has sung the dismissal and the MC has closed the book. He then moves forward to stand beside the C. The three SM bow to the altar (the C and D, but not the SD, kiss it) and descend to the centre of the sanctuary. The MC leads a genuflection, and as the SM turn about, the D and SD change sides behind the C. The SM leave, via the centre aisle, three abreast. The sanctuary party is dismissed by the C in the church porch.

The SD and MC collect the C's and D's vestments before returning to the sanctuary. The SD then has the task of cleansing ciboria and chalices and assisting the MC as required.

If a Bishop is presiding

The principal difference for the SD is as follows:

When the MC and SD come to the centre of the pavement before proceeding to the place where the Epistle (Second Reading) is sung, they genuflect to the altar and then turn slightly to bow to the Bishop.

On return from the singing of the Epistle, SD and MC genuflect as usual. The SD moves to kneel (one knee) at the Bishop's right to receive a blessing, while the MC moves to stand beside the SD's chair at the sedilia.

After receiving the Bishop's blessing, the SD moves to the centre of the pavement, genuflects, and returns to his place, where the book is given to the MC in the usual fashion.