

TORCHBEARERS at High Mass

In the Sacristy

- Early arrival is recommended – at least 15 minutes prior to commencement of Mass.
- Select a cassock (red or black --black for Lent, Advent, All Souls Day) and a white cotta (lace for festival days).
- Allow time for private devotion/reflection.
- Minimise personal conversation and be aware of noise levels carrying out into the church.
- Please wear Black shoes - NOT runners.
- For your own safety and comfort, it is advisable to drink plenty of water.
- Do check that torches are in their stands and snuffers are put out (one at each stand).
- Assist in preparation/set-up as required by MC.

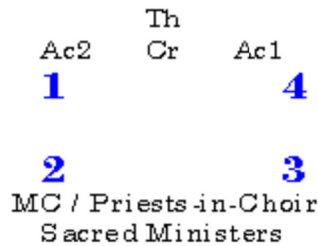
In the Sanctuary

- Good servers are never noticed.
- Be wary of “Wandering Eye Syndrome”.
- Always keep an eye on the MC for instruction and cues.
- Torchbearers are a team – they act in unison.
- Simple Bow: is a slight bow of the head (from the shoulders) at any mention of the Holy Name “Jesus” and “Mary” (Blessed Virgin) – then straight back up again.
- (Note that "Christ" is a title - not a name. The word "Christ" does not require a bow, unless it is used in conjunction with the Holy Name - i.e., "Jesus Christ".)
- Profound Bow: bend forward at waist level (to a point where, if your arms were hanging free, you would be able to touch your knees) – usually held for the length of “Glory be to the Father...” and during the “Et Incarnatus est...” part of the Creed
- ✙: make a sign of cross with your right hand – touch your forehead, down to your breast, up to your left shoulder and across to your right shoulder (NOT back to the centre!)
- A suggestion to keep circulation moving while kneeling is to wiggle your toes in their shoes and breathe regularly to help avoid dizziness and fainting.
- Unless directed otherwise by the MC, *NEVER* sit before the Celebrant.

ENTRY

Normal High Mass

Form up outside Sacristy transept door in pairs as follows:



- ** If there are less than 4 torchbearers use the following guidelines:
 3 – one pair in front and the third behind in the centre;
 2 – in a pair; or 1 – by yourself in the centre;

Proceed to the west door where you move to either side of the doorway, facing inwards, for introductory prayers as follows:

✠ In The Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

I shall go to the altar of God

To God, my joy and my delight

Our Help is in the name of the Lord

Who has made heaven and earth

The Lord be with you

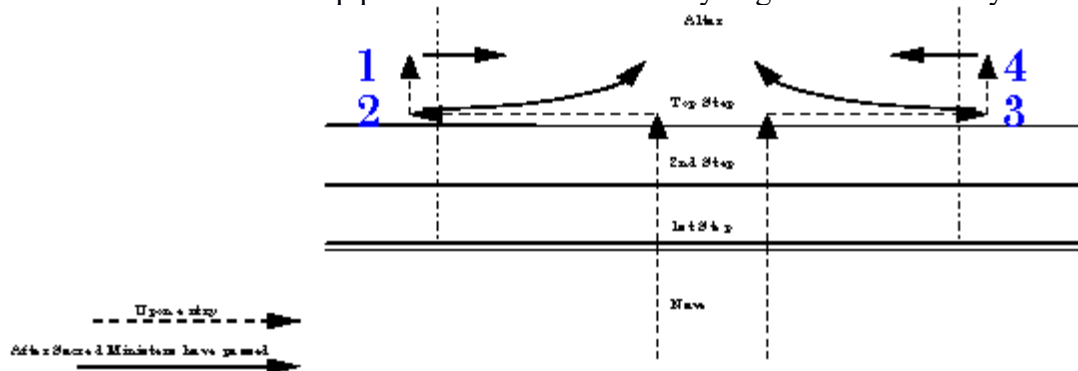
And also with you

Prayer

Let us proceed in peace

✠ **In the name of Christ Amen**

After the bell rings and the hymn starts, process down the centre aisle and take up positions as follows when you get to the sanctuary:



- ** (If there are 1 or 3 torchbearers present, the single or third torchbearer will turn off to the left when reaching the top step.)

To Places: After Sacred Ministers have passed, move (as above) into a single line facing the altar and genuflect with the rest of the sanctuary party on the cue from the MC.

- ** (For less than 4 torchbearers, the number of persons will arrange so that they form a line in the centre of the carpet.)
 Then turn left and proceed along edge of carpet to torchbearer benches.

Processional High Mass

In the event of a “full” procession, the torchbearers carry banners (in single file) in procession. The order of banners is as follows:

Blessed Sacrament

Blessed Virgin

Saint Peter
Crossed Keys

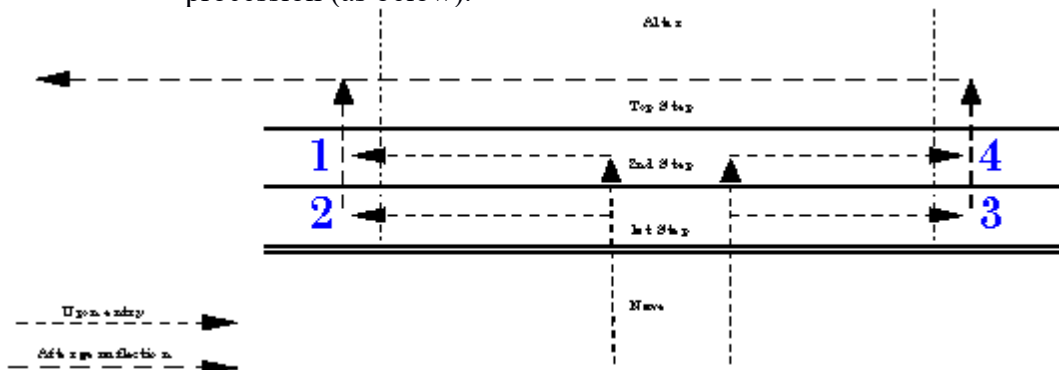
** (If there are less than 4 torchbearers present, consult the MC as to which banners are to be carried.)
Move up to west door and take up normal positions. After the introductory prayers (except the part "Let us proceed...", which is sung after the bell has been rung), lower the banner to get through inner glass door and then arrange the banner and cross-pole so they are centred. Follow the introductory prayers as above.

Procession: When the hymn starts, process in single file. The procession moves around the interior of the nave in a 'figure 8' – moving down the centre aisle first, then to the right and up south aisle via the lectern, across the back, down the centre again, then to the left and up the north aisle past the Lady Chapel, across the back and down the centre for the third time and then into the sanctuary, taking up positions on the *middle* and *bottom* steps as shown below.

Hints:

- days of reverse procession – after coming down the centre initially, genuflect (as no banners will be carried on these days) and turn left and come back up the north aisle past the Lady Chapel before the south aisle and the lectern;
- when passing the lectern, turn banner slightly towards the congregation so as to avoid damaging the banner from the candles at the Lectern;
- be careful not to come into contact with the walls, paintings, or Stations of the Cross;
- when approaching the back of the church, lower banner to the side so that front of banner is facing the wall.

Station: Depending on the day, a station will be made at one of the following places:
St Peter: after processing up the south aisle via the Lectern, line up along the back pew/sideboard and face the shrine.
Lady Chapel: after processing down the centre aisle for the second time, line up along communion rail – opposite the chapel – and face the congregation.
Font: after processing up the north aisle past the Lady Chapel, line up along the back pew and face the font.
High Altar: follow the procession without stopping at any of the other stations, then take up positions in the sanctuary at the end of the procession (as below).



When the rest of the sanctuary party genuflects (**in** which those holding banners do not participate **in**), step directly up to the top step and move out of the sanctuary by the pulpit entrance and put banners back in their holders. Return to the sanctuary in single file and form a line facing the altar, genuflect, turn left and proceed along edge of carpet to torchbearer benches.

Positions on the torchbearer benches:



Introduction

** ASPERGES

Stand, with a simple bow when aspersed.

(** This may not occur on days of Processional High Mass)

A profound bow is observed during the words “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit”.

Collect for Purity

Note: there is NO simple bow at the words “...through Christ our Lord...”

Removal of Cope

When the Celebrant returns to sedilia and proceeds to remove the cope, the torchbearer nearest the Crucifer will move the centre, genuflect and move the side of the Sub-Deacon’s seat to receive the cope, move back to the centre of the carpet, genuflect and proceed to the Sacristy by the pulpit and put cope back on hanger and re-enter by the door at the High Altar, genuflect and move down to the torchbearer benches; meanwhile, the remaining torchbearers have moved a step closer to the Crucifer.

KYRIE's Stand.

CONFESSION

Stand.

(Note the simple bow at the Holy Name)

Absolution

(Note the ✠ sign of the Cross as the Celebrant pronounces the Absolution)

GLORIA Stand.

In addition to simple bows at the Holy Name, it is also observed for the words “Adoramus te – We adore thee” and “ Suscipe deprecationem nostrum – receive our prayer” (the bow is held for the whole phrase in this instance).

At the end, a ✠ is made at “in gloria Dei Patris – glory of God the Father”

1st READING

Sit -- after Celebrant has sat -- with other servers.

PSALM

Sit.

EPISTLE READING

Sit. After the reading, when the book is returned from the Sub-Deacon to the MC, all stand immediately.

GRADUAL HYMN

When the Gospel procession leaves sanctuary, turn and face the procession only when the Celebrant does.

After the Gospel is announced, you should action a 'triple' signing of the Cross (with the thumbnail of the right hand) – on the forehead, on the lips and on the heart.

When the Gospel procession returns, turn back to original positions only when the Celebrant does.

SERMON

Sit only after the Celebrant. If the Celebrant is the preacher, then only sit when the other Sacred Ministers (Deacon and Sub-Deacon) sit down.

If the preacher ascribes his words to the Holy Trinity, make a ✠ sign of the Cross. This may also apply at the end of the sermon.

Stand when preacher comes back to centre to genuflect – watch the Sub-Deacon.

CREED

Stand.

In addition to simple bows at the Holy Name, a profound bow is observed throughout the passage "...and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and became truly human..." (note that this is replaced by a genuflection during Christmastide).

A simple bow is observed at the words "...is worshipped and glorified," A ✠ is actioned at the beginning of the phrase "...and the life of the world to come." at the end of the Creed.

INTERCESSIONS

Stand.

Remember that a simple bow is observed at any mention of the Holy Name.

At the end, a ✠ is actioned at the response "And let light perpetual shine upon them."

PEACE

Stand. Torch #4 will receive peace from Crucifer. Torch #4 will then pass peace onto Torch #3 and so on. Both people will bow to each other, then the person giving the peace will place their hands on the shoulders of the receiver, while the person receiving will place theirs under the giver's elbows. The giver will say "Peace be with you", to which the receiver will respond "And also with you". Then both people will bow to each other again.

OFFERTORY

Stand. The MC will light the torches – however the taper may be passed to the nearest torchbearer. Pass the taper along to the person closest to the Crucifer to light the other torches; then the taper is extinguished and placed on the stand.

When the Thurifer moves down to the pavement steps, turn and face the Thurifer, bow, be censed, bow; then, while the Thurifer is censuring the people, turn and pick up torches. After the Thurifer has returned up to the bottom step up to the altar, form a single line, opposite the sedilia, genuflect and stand, place torches on the carpet in front of you, wait and kneel together with the Thurifer and Acolytes.

Prayer over the Gifts**Sursum Corda**

Preface Kneel.
Remember that a simple bow is observed at any mention of the Holy Name.

SANCTUS/Benedictus

Kneel.
A ✠ is traditionally actioned at the beginning of the “Benedictus – Blessed is he...” but the torchbearers do not participate in this, given that they are holding their torches.

CONSECRATION

Kneel.
Remember that a simple bow is observed at any mention of the Holy Name.
A ✠ is traditionally actioned at each elevation of the elements (bread and wine) but the torchbearers do not participate in this, given that they are holding their torches.

Eucharistic Prayer

After the “greater elevation” (*Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen*), the Sacred Ministers genuflect. As they rise, the torchbearers will stand, with the MC, Thurifer and Acolytes. Then they will, in unison, genuflect (without a cue from the MC), and return in single file back to the benches, place the torches back in their stands and extinguish them.

LORD'S PRAYER

Stand.

ANGUS DEI

Stand.

COMMUNION

After the MC has rung the bell to invite the people to Communion, the MC, Thurifer and Acolytes move to kneel on the bottom step to receive

Communion. At the same time, the torchbearers will step forward to the edge of the carpet and kneel. Communion will be administered to all torchbearers by the Deacon and Crucifer. After all torchbearers have received Communion, they will all stand together and step back to the usual position of the benches. (There will not be a genuflection at this time.)

Toward the end of the Communion of the people, the MC will give a cue for all to kneel. The torchbearers will move forward again to the edge of the carpet and kneel (at a cue from the MC), while the consecrated elements are returned to the altar.

NOTE: there is no need of an additional bow as the Sacrament passes by, given that all are already in a prayerful stance.

AFTER COMMUNION

The MC will give the cue to stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

Stand. Remember a simple bow at the Holy Name.

DISMISSAL

Turn to face Celebrant (or Bishop) and genuflect at "...and the blessing of God; ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit...", then stand after the "Amen".

RECESSIONAL

Move back to single line in the centre (opposite sedilia), genuflect, then Torches #2+3 turn inwardly around and lead Torches #1+4 (who have turned to face each other) out, who then fall in behind them.

** When there are 3 torchbearers, line up in the centre of the carpet (as at the Entry). After the genuflection, the middle person turns by themselves and, from the centre, leads the other two out, who follow behind as a pair. For 2 torchbearers, after the genuflection, they turn inwards and process out in a pair. A single torchbearer will process out in the centre by him/herself.

Back at the west door the final prayers are as follows:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God,

✠ Rest In Peace

And Rise in Glory, Amen.

Let us depart in peace

Thanks be to God

AFTER

Put away torches and snuffers. For procession days, put covers on banners (individually named). Bring in items from outside the sanctuary (eg: books & microphones at lectern & pulpit, candles/crucifix/sceptre from side chapels - without interrupting the prayers of anyone in these chapels, the Paschal candle - on procession days).

- * "Veteran" servers can show inexperienced torchbearers what items to put away and where they belong.
- * This is only meant as a guide. The object is to get the work done without placing undue burden on a few individuals.