

The Crucifer at High Mass

(Masculine gender is used, for convenience, in these notes but is intended to include the feminine)

The Crucifer should always be prepared, at the MC's request, to read either the First Reading or the Intercessions, should the appointed reader be absent. If spectacles are needed, they should be to hand.

The Crucifer enters the church between the acolytes. If there is a procession, he allows the acolytes to precede him in the side aisles.

On arrival in the sanctuary, the acolytes and Crucifer turn left, then right and move in single file to stand opposite the sedilia, facing inwards. After the passage of the Sacred Ministers, they move, again in single file, to the centre of the sanctuary. All clergy and servers, other than the Crucifer and his attending acolytes, reverence the altar.

After the reverence, the Crucifer takes a step backwards to facilitate the acolytes in their movement to the credence table. The Crucifer places the crucifix in its holder and stands in his place.

If there is a bishop presiding, it may be more convenient for the Crucifer to stand the crucifix in the alternative holder on the back of the banner cupboard.

If there is a bishop presiding, the Crucifer should be prepared to assist with the putting on of incense (kneeling with the Thurifer and holding the boat). He should request the bishop's blessing of the incense, saying, "Bless, Right Reverend Father".

A presiding bishop may need some assistance with hymn books and such like.

The Crucifer follows the lead of others in the sanctuary in sitting for readings, etc.

After the blessing of incense before the Gospel, the Crucifer obtains the crucifix. When the acolytes have taken up their position in readiness for the Gospel procession, the Crucifer moves to stand between them. Those assembled for the Gospel procession (other than the Crucifer and acolytes) genuflect, turn and process to the middle of the nave. The acolytes stop about opposite the "John Pinney Bear" memorial plaque and turn inwards. The Crucifer takes one or two further steps down the aisle before turning to face the altar. He should be standing directly behind the Subdeacon.

The Crucifer returns from the Gospel between the acolytes. After MC, Deacon and Subdeacon have genuflected, the Crucifer takes a step backwards to facilitate the return of the acolytes to their places. The Crucifer then puts the crucifix away and returns to his place.

The Crucifer is seated for the sermon and stands when others do so. At the *Kiss of Peace*, he receives the Greeting from the Deacon and passes the Greeting to the

nearest torchbearer. He turns with the other servers to be censed collectively by the Thurifer.

The Crucifer remains standing (regardless of the fact that others may be kneeling) until the MC kneels during the *Benedictus*. He remains kneeling until the MC, acolytes, torchbearers and thurifer stand.

The Crucifer comes forward in readiness for Communion at the MC's signal. This may be given during the *Our Father* or *Agnus Dei*, depending on the time of the Thurifer's return to the sanctuary. When summoned, the Crucifer stands on the step, in front of the doorway, facing inwards. He joins the Deacon and Subdeacon (kneeling on the top step) to receive Communion.

After receiving Communion, Deacon, Subdeacon and Crucifer join the Celebrant on the top step and genuflect. If the Crucifer is not to assist in the administration, he moves aside to the left and returns to his place. If he is to assist, as will normally be the case, he takes up the "plain" chalice and a purificator. He follows the Deacon in administering to the MC and Thurifer. He waits for them to move away, standing beside the Deacon (and opposite the Subdeacon).

The administration of Communion proceeds. The general rule is that the Crucifer administers the chalice to those to whom the Deacon has administered the Host.

If either the Celebrant or the Deacon moves to communicate an infirm person in the congregation, either the Subdeacon or the Crucifer (whichever has finished administering at the communion rail) follows to administer the chalice.

After Communion, the Subdeacon and Crucifer return to the altar together. After placing their chalices and purificators on the altar, they step backwards (with the Celebrant and Deacon) and kneel on the top step. At the Celebrant's cue, the four ministers stand, step forward onto the top step and genuflect. The Crucifer takes his chalice and purificator and moves via the left side of the altar to the rear table. He consumes any remaining Precious Blood and places the chalice and purificator on the table. After the Deacon has come to the table with the ciboria, there is a genuflection, after which the Crucifer returns to his place. It may be appropriate for the Crucifer to wait until the MC and other servers stand before returning.

The Crucifer genuflects for the final blessing, then obtains the crucifix. When the acolytes are in position for the recessional, the Crucifer moves to stand between them. After the altar has been revered (by all except the Crucifer and his attending acolytes), all turn. The Crucifer and acolytes follow the Thurifer out of the church.

The MC will request the Crucifer to assist in the post-Mass tasks, usually by dealing with the collection.