

**South East Edinburgh Cluster  
St Catherine of Alexandria  
St Gregory the Great  
St John Vianney**



Communion Minister

The three parishes of St Catherine of Alexandria, St Gregory the Great and St John Vianney value the contribution of all of our parishioners. We believe that everyone has their part to play in enriching the life of our church community.

One of the ways that some people serve in our cluster is by responding to the invitation to become a Communion Minister. To assist our priests in the administration of communion at Mass, to lead communion services, and to take communion to the housebound are all important ways of building up our church community.

*A Communion Minister performs one or more of the following functions:*

- giving out communion at Mass
- taking communion to the housebound.
- leading communion services

He or she also provides a point of contact for housebound parishioners with the parish priest and/or parish coordinator for sacramental or other needs, and can help the housebound to feel that they are important and valued members of our church community.

*A Communion Minister is supported in the following ways:*

- Given help to work through the Diocesan Child & Adult at Risk Protection process and Disclosure Scotland
- Given initial training for this ministry
- Given help by the Parish Coordinator and Parish Priest to deal with any issues they encounter
- Those visiting the sick will be given the opportunity, after initial training, to partner an experienced Communion Minister until they become confident in the role
- Offered access to resources such as written guidance for the administration of Communion to the housebound

- Offered the opportunity to participate in meetings with other Communion Ministers in their parish and to share experiences and talk through any difficulties
- Offered the opportunity to participate in organised “times of reflection”

### *A Communion Minister commits to*

- Initial training over three evenings, approximately 2 hours each evening
- Attending annual parish meetings that last around 1 hour
- Attending a cluster meeting for reflection annually for approximately 2 hours
- Arranging a replacement if they cannot attend when it is their turn on the rota or are due to visit the housebound, using the agreed procedure for finding a replacement
- Being commissioned as a Communion Minister for 3 years – with an initial review of their commitment with the Parish Coordinator after six months
- Attending Awareness session for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

### *A Communion Minister is*

- Committed to assisting in the liturgical life of the parish
- Normally 18 years of age or over
- Friendly, approachable, observant, sensitive and able to keep a confidence as required
- Supportive of fellow Communion Ministers
- Open to deepening his or her own faith

If you would like further information please contact

Father Jock or Father Mike or the Parish Coordinator  
St Catherine of Alexandria: Sister Mary  
St Gregory the Great: Maureen Wallbanks  
St John Vianney: Sister Ninian

St Paul encourages us, as he did the early Christians, to serve one another and to use the gifts and talents we have all been given:

*There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.*

1 Cor 12 4-7

Being a Communion Minister is one of the ways we can serve one another and our church community.