

YOUNG LECTORS GATHER FOR INSIGHTFUL TRAINING SESSION IN ST ANTONY'S CHURCH, FOREST GATE

NEWHAM DEANERY'S YOUTH PROGRAMME PREAPRES FUTURE LEADERS FOR LITURGICAL SERVICE



Young Lectors and Lector Leaders, pictured seating by the Lector Stand

On 7th August 2024, the Newham Deanery & Partnerships hosted an in-person session of the Young Lector Programme at St Antony's Church in Forest Gate. The session, which began at 1:30pm, attracted young participants from various parishes across the Newham Deanery, with some arriving as early as 12:30pm, keen to engage and learn.

The session commenced with the distribution of a Lector's document, providing the young attendees with detailed guidance on the procedures and protocols they are expected to follow during Mass. Seated in the front two rows, directly in front of the Lector stand, the young lectors were reminded of the importance of their roles—not only as representatives of their respective parishes but also as ambassadors of the entire Newham community.

The event was led by an experienced team, including Senior Lector Leader Ms Claudette Dublin, Lector Leader Leo Clarey, and Youth Coordinator and Lector Leader Ms Olivea. Their expertise and passion for the liturgy fostered a supportive environment for the young

lectors to develop their skills.

Each participant had the opportunity to read aloud during the session, with their readings carefully evaluated by the leaders. This exercise allowed the young lectors to receive immediate feedback on their delivery, articulation, and overall presentation.

Following the initial readings, the attendees were divided into three groups, each guided by one of the Lector Leaders. The groups moved to different corners of the church, where they explored various types of scripture. This more intimate setting allowed for personalised feedback and practice, helping the young lectors to further hone their skills. Focusing on different scripture readings also provided them with a broader understanding of the texts they might encounter during Mass, enhancing both their confidence and proficiency.

As the session drew to a close, the young lectors practised their introductions to the readings—a crucial aspect of their role. The leaders emphasised the importance of making a strong first impression,

Ms Claudette Dublin, centre middle, a Senior Lector Leader who also taught the current leaders

"STRENGTHENS THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY"

guiding the participants through the nuances of delivering a clear and engaging introduction that would captivate the congregation from the outset.

Feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive. The young participants expressed their enjoyment and appreciation for the hands-on experience and personalised guidance they received. The Lector Leaders, in turn, were full of praise for the attendees. Ms Claudette Dublin, in particular, was impressed by the quality, articulation, and smoothness of the readings. However, she noted that a common area for improvement among the young lectors was their reading speed, which will be a focus for future sessions.

The Young Lector Programme continues to play a crucial role in preparing the youth of the Newham Deanery for active participation in the liturgy. By developing these skills, the programme not only enriches the individual lives of the young participants but also strengthens the spiritual life of the entire community. As the session concluded, it was clear that these young lectors are well on their way to becoming confident and capable leaders in their parishes.



Mic control in action



Young lectors reading and listening