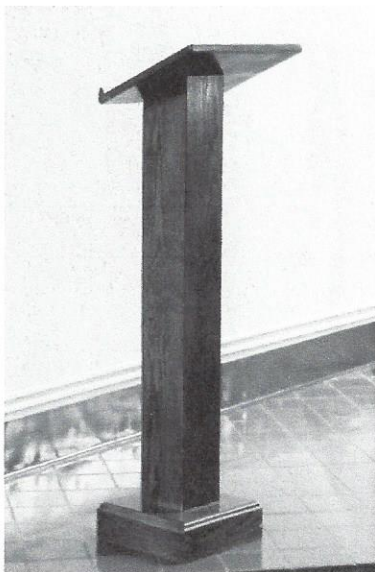


THE AMBO & ITS USES

'The ambo shares a dignity with the altar. It is fixed in place and the space near it large enough for the celebrant to process with incense around it. It is to be harmonious with the altar since the congregation is fed from the twin tables of the Word (ambo) and Eucharist (altar). It is treated with the same respect as the altar' *The Liturgical Environment, 3rd. Edit.*

The uses of the ambo are very clearly defined. It is where all the Scripture texts are read/sung during Mass. The Old Testament, psalms, New Testament and gospel are all proclaimed from the ambo. It can also be used for the homily and the universal prayer (prayer of the faithful) although the priest can do these from his chair. Typically the priest begins the universal prayer from his chair and the lector reads them from the ambo.

The ambo is treated like the altar, with respect and should never be used to store papers, notes, hymnals. It is reserved for the Lectionary and the Book of Gospels. Likewise the ambo is never used for any other purpose than those stated above.



The ambo is not used by a commentator, for announcements, to introduce songs or even our mission statement. Any of these other uses are to be done at a smaller, less dominant lectern.

At St. Joseph the podium is in place and we are waiting for a microphone to be installed. St. Raphael is at the beginning stage of the process and will hopefully see the addition of a podium soon.

We recite our mission statement before Mass and all other announcements at the end of Mass, when invited up by Father.