



Tips for Stewarding - Refectory

Stewarding can be one of the most rewarding roles in a lodge. It can also be one of the most tiresome if you're not prepared for the role. Here are some tips to make your time as a steward a success for you and for your Lodge with respect to the refectory:

- Brainstorm some ideas on how you can enhance the refectory experience for all members.
- Create a simple A4 paper place-mat using the Lodge logo acknowledging the Master of the Lodge. Include the words to Grace and any honours that might be sung – this will assist newer brethren.
- Coloured napkins are cheap – they can brighten up a table.
- Review the crockery and discard any clipped or cracked plates – nothing worse than serving a visitor a damaged plate or cup.
- Clearing the tables at the end is always a chore. Ask the DC when winding up refectory to encourage the brethren to clear the tables to a pre-arranged clearance table or trolley.
- Table cloths provide an enhanced quality to the refectory setting (better than paper or nothing at all), but they do add to the laundry bill. Some lodges have purchased theirs and have a roster for laundering while there are also hire options - one lodge gets theirs from the local correctional facility.
- Find someone good at sewing and get some Lodge table runners made up for the centre of the table – a good way to theme for say the Christmas meeting or installation.
- Fresh flowers always add to the décor – check if any member has a nice garden from which they can contribute flowers for significant events.
- Create a roster of other brethren – just because you're invested as the steward doesn't mean you need to do all the work. Identify with the Master and JW other brethren who can help and roster them on to assist.

