**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

Good morning/evening we welcome our parishioners and visitors to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

The Third Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete* Sunday, a Sunday of rejoicing. The

Church, the People of God, rejoices in salvation from sin, inviting everyone to rejoice and create conditions that the salvation brought by the Lord Jesus may be shared by all.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**\*THE ADVENT WREATH** **CEREMONY\***

***The Advent Candle is brought in procession by rostered parishioners who walk in front of the Celebrant. (Note: This Candle lighting ceremony replaces the Penitential Rite during the Advent Season and Christmas Day)***

**The Third Week of Advent**

***At the conclusion of the Entrance hymn, the candle bearer faces the congregation and holds up the candle.***

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the holy be with you all

**All:** And With Your Spirit.

**Commentator: Behold the Third Candle - The Candle of Joy**

***The Candle Bearer holds the candle up high and then place it in the Wreath***

**Priest**: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Priest**: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light the Candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

***The Senior Server lights the Candles of Hope and Peace***

**Priest**: Today we light the third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.” Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

***The Candle Bearer lights the third Candle, the Candle of Joy***

**P.T.O**

**Priest:** Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

**Priest**: Let us pray:

**All: Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other.**

**We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem.**

**Amen**

***The Candle Bearer return to floor level of Sanctuary, bow and return to seat.***

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Is 61:1-2. 10-11)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,

for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord,

my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,

like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,

like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up,

so will the Lord make both integrity and praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10)**

***(R.)*** *My soul rejoices in my God.*

**1.** My soul glorifies the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her nothingness;

henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

**2.** The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,

on those who fear him. (R.)

**3.** He fills the starving with good things,

sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,

remembering his mercy. (R.)

**Second Reading (1 Thes 5:16-24)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Jn 1:6-8. 19-28)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked, ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — Let us confidently bring our prayers before God the Father, who is the joy of our souls, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ our Saviour.

**Reader:** May the Church become a source of joy to those who are suffering and commit themselves to defend at all times the dignity and sanctity of human life.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May world leaders unite to combat all forms of violence and human degradation, implement laws to protect the voiceless members of society, and exert every effort to bring justice and peace.

We pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May victims of human trafficking, migrants, refugees, and those who suffer from war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty, find hope and healing in Jesus; may they be freed from their bondage and find emotional, physical, and spiritual healing from the communities who welcome them.

We pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May those who are unable to afford food and clean water, those who have poor housing and clothing, receive proper care and support from government and religious leaders.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May our family members, relatives, and friends who have died experience everlasting joy in the company of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, especially remembering all those mentioned in our parish bulletin.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer during Advent.**

**All:** God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Celebrant:** God of joy and mercy, as we wait for the Lord’s coming, look with compassion upon us. Sustain us with your love and care in all travails, even as you assure us of your love and care in all that we do.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.