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

**SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER**

**TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME & CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY - YEAR C**

**Introduction:**

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

Dear sisters and brothers: We hear in today’s Gospel three well-known parables about the loving mercy of God. Ours is not a distant God who strictly imposes his will. Rather, Jesus reveals God as full of mercy and rich in compassion. He is like a shepherd who loves all his sheep and goes looking for even just one that gets lost. And he is like a woman who sweeps the house clean to seek for a coin she has lost. Let us therefore approach the Father with confidence as we celebrate this memorial of Jesus Christ, his Son.

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults.

The Celebrant for today’s Mass is:

Please now stand and join in our Entrance Hymn.

#### TwentY FOURTH Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

#### MASS READINGS

#### FIRST READING (Ex 32:7-11. 13-14)

*A reading from the book of Exodus*

The Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. “Here is your God, Israel,” they have cried, “who brought you up from the land of Egypt!” I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.’

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.’ So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

*The Word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 17. 19. R. Lk 15:18)

***R.) I will rise and go to my father.***

**1.** Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt

and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

**2.** A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

**3.** O Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall declare your praise.

My sacrifice is a contrite spirit;

a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

#### SECOND READING  (1 Tm 1:12-17)

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy*

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus.

Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life.

To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;

and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Lk 15:1-10)

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

#### The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

#### ‘What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” he would say “I have found my sheep that was lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

#### ‘Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” she would say “I have found the drachma I lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord who desires not the destruction of sinners but their repentance. May we acknowledge our own mistakes and accept wholeheartedly those who have failed.

**Reader:** That the Church and her leaders may fight all forms of evil and sin and yet not condemn and reject the sinners,

We pray:

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

**Reader:** That government leaders, judges, and the police force, in maintaining peace and order, may shun corruption and favouritism and respect the basic dignity of all, even of those suspected or guilty of wrongdoings,

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** That the wayward, the lost, and sinners may not find themselves excluded by their families and communities, but may instead experience openness, forgiveness, and encouragement for a new life,

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** That work-related problems and differences may be solved through frank and honest dialogue rather than through extreme measures that only lead to the suffering of all,

We pray:

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

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular those mentioned in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For parents, relatives, mentors, teachers, coaches and other adults: That they may look after children and young people with the watchful eye of the Good Shepherd.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our Parish Prayer for Child Protection Sunday.

**All:** Gracious God, you said “Let the children come to me”.

The hurt felt by those wounded by abuse weighs heavily upon us. Trust has been eroded when institutions failed to appropriately respond to their needs. Lord, we as your Church stand in need of your healing and help.

We ask you, God, to strengthen and guide all in our Catholic communities. Grant us wisdom in our time to make decisions that protect children and the vulnerable.

May our families and communities, through love, generosity, commitment and patience, build stronger communities safe for children.

Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience they will need for their life’s journey.

We ask you, God, to help our Catholic communities to be resolute in building a community where our children flourish and are safe.

**Priest:** God our Father, as we seek your forgiveness, give us a heart ready to forgive our brothers and sisters. May we experience and celebrate together the joy of your forgiveness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.