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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

The first Sunday of Advent begins a new liturgical year. Advent means “coming”—the coming of the Lord Jesus. Advent looks back to the past and prepares us for the feast of Christmas which commemorates Jesus’ first coming as man among us. Advent highlights the present and reminds us of the varied ways by which Jesus comes into our lives. Advent finally points to the future: the glorious coming of Christ at the end of the age.

May we stand ready so that when the Lord comes, our hearts are wide open to receive him.

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 First 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 our first Advent Candle** -The Candle of the Patriarchs, Abraham and the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

***The candle is placed in the wreath***

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

**All**: **Thanks be to God**

**Priest**: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the **hope** we have in Christ.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

***The rostered parishioner lights the First Candle***

**Priest:** Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

**Priest**: Let us pray:

**All**: **God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem.**

**Amen.**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,

Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways

and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,

the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down

– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,

no eye has seen

any god but you act like this

for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity

and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;

we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves

and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name

or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us

and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;

we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4)**

***(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall***

 ***be saved.***

**1.** O shepherd of Israel, hear us,

shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

**2.** God of hosts, turn again, we implore,

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

**3.** May your hand be on the man you have chosen,

the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

**Second Reading (1 Cor 1:3-9)**

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,

and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mk 13:33-37)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — Christ the Lord asks us to be watchful and awake for his coming into our lives. In need of his grace, we pray to the Father:

**Reader:** May the Pope, the bishops, and the leaders of our Christian communities watch over the Church and keep God’s people ever ready for the Lord’s coming.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** May civil leaders carry out their tasks with love and responsibility, like faithful servants awaiting the Master’s return, so that when he comes they will receive the unfading crown of glory.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** May the victims of violence, terrorism, and natural and man-made calamities receive comfort and hope through the care of the Church and society.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** May consecrated men and women continue to be inspired by what St. Paul tells us today: “He will keep you firm until the end, irreproachable on the day of the Lord Jesus.”

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:** Father, we eagerly wait for the coming of your Son. Strengthen us by the inspiration of the Spirit, and make us watchful and prayerful. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.