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

**SUNDAY, 25 JUNE 2023:**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

By his passion, death, and resurrection, the Lord Jesus overcame the power of sin and death. In the Eucharist he has left us a living memorial of his saving mystery. He has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always. Indeed, the Lord strengthens his disciples for the task of spreading the Gospel because it is not without problems and difficulties.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

**SUNDAY, 25 JUNE 2023:**

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Jer 20:10-13)**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:

‘I hear so many disparaging me,

“Terror from every side!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”

All those who used to be my friends

watched for my downfall,

“Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him and take our revenge!”

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy

from the hands of evil men.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14)**

***(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.***

**1.** It is for you that I suffer taunts,

 that shame covers my face,

 that I have become a stranger to my brothers,

 an alien to my own mother's sons.

 I burn with zeal for your house

 and taunts against you fall on me. **(R.)**

**2.** This is my prayer to you,

 my prayer for your favour.

 In your great love, answer me, O God,

 with your help that never fails:

 Lord, answer, for your love is kind;

 in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.)**

**3.** The poor when they see it will be glad

 and God-seeking hearts will revive;

 for the Lord listens to the needy

 and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

 Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,

 the sea and all its living creatures. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Rom 5:12-15)**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man’s fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,

and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 10:26-33)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — In Jesus Christ we are reconciled to the Father and made his adopted children. Confident of the Father’s love, let us raise our petitions to him who is Lord of life.

**Reader:** That the Church may persevere in proclaiming the Gospel and lead men and women to Christ, the true light that enlightens every human being.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That Pope Francis, the bishops, priests, and deacons may witness to the saving power of the Gospel in season and out of season, even amid opposition, unbelief, and lukewarmness.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That government and civil leaders may help safeguard human dignity, promote peace among peoples, and attend to the needs of the poor, the weak, and the voiceless in society.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Lord may inspire every family to embody the Good News of Jesus.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For us now gathered before the Lord: may we obtain the strength and courage to let go of our fears, face the challenges of life, and bear witness to God’s love.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the dead especially those mentioned in our bulletin, that they may share in your glory together with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer:

**All:** God, our Father, bless this parish Mary Immaculate so that we may love you more.

Help the parents to be good examples to the children and our youth to grow in love and strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

**Priest:** Almighty Father, hear the prayers of your people. Heal the wounds of sin that divide and confuse us. Strengthen us with the power of your Spirit and help us in our journey back to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.