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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

**Introduction:**

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

The Second Sunday of Advent introduces to us the figure of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Lord. The word of the Lord summons John from the desert, and the prophet begins his ministry of preparing the people for the Messiah who, though yet to be revealed, is already in their midst.

The Celebrant for today’s Mass is

Please now stand and join in our 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 Second 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 Second Advent Candle - The Candle of Peace**

***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**: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Peace. Last Sunday we lit the First Candle in our Advent Wreath, and celebrated the patriarchs, that First Candle reminded us of our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Saviour, born a king in the line of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and we believe that he will come again to fulfil all of God's promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

***A Senior Server lights the First Candle, the Candle of Hope***

**Priest:** Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. We remember the prophets who spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". They told us how he would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations.

When Jesus came he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us he brings us peace and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

***The Candle Bearer lights the Second Candle, the Candle of Peace***

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

**Priest:**  Let us pray:

**All**: **Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide. We ask that as we wait for you 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 peace 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.***

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

#### **MASS READINGS**

#### **FIRST READING (Is 11:1-10)**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,

a scion thrusts from his roots:

on him the spirit of the Lord rests,

a spirit of wisdom and insight,

a spirit of counsel and power,

a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay,

but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for

the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to

the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt

about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid,

calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair

the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain,

for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse

shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations

and its home will be glorious.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7)**

***(R) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.***

#### 1. O God, give your judgement to the king,

#### to a king’s son your justice,

#### that he may judge your people in justice

#### and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

#### 2. In his days justice shall flourish

#### and peace till the moon fails.

#### He shall rule from sea to sea,

#### from the Great River to the earth’s bounds. (R.)

#### 3. For he shall save the poor when they cry

#### and the needy who are helpless.

#### He will have pity on the weak

#### and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

#### 4. May his name be blessed for ever

#### and endure like the sun.

#### Every tribe shall be blessed in him,

#### all nations bless his name. (R.)

#### **SECOND READING  (Rom 15:4-9)**

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

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God’s glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL (Mt 3:1-12)**

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

#### In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

#### A voice cries in the wilderness:

#### Prepare a way for the Lord,

#### make his paths straight.

#### This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming?

#### But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, “We have Abraham for our father,” because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones.

#### Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Father that in this time of Advent we may prepare a straight path for the coming of his Son by forsaking sin and choosing good. Let us pray:

**Reader:** That the Church may always choose the path of conversion and renewal and become for the world the sign and sacrament of the Father’s mercy.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May Christians find in the grace and holiness of Mary a sign of hope as they seek to be faithful to her Son, Jesus Christ.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Lord protect our country and our people from natural calamities and the evils of corruption, injustice, and terrorism.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died, 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:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for 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 center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Priest:** God our Father, hear the prayers of your people. As we prepare for the coming of your Son, grant us true repentance so that we may become your holy people. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**