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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

**Introduction:**

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

Today, we open a new liturgical year. Advent, which means “coming,” is a time of preparation for the Lord’s coming. May we have this disposition as we start a new stage of our pilgrimage.

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 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 A**

#### **MASS READINGS**

#### FIRST READING (Is 2:1-5)

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come

the mountain of the Temple of the Lord

shall tower above the mountains

and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,

peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the Temple of the God of Jacob

that he may teach us his ways

so that we may walk in his paths;

since the Law will go out from Zion,

and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations

and adjudicate between many peoples;

these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,

their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,

there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.)

***(R) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

#### 1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:

#### ‘Let us go to God’s house.’

#### And now our feet are standing

#### within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

#### 2. It is there that the tribes go up,

#### the tribes of the Lord.

#### For Israel’s law it is,

#### there to praise the Lord’s name.

#### There were set the thrones of judgement

#### of the house of David. (R.)

#### 3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:

#### ‘Peace be to your homes!

#### May peace reign in your walls,

#### in your palaces, peace!’ (R.)

#### 4. For love of my brethren and friends

#### I say: ‘Peace upon you!’

#### For love of the house of the Lord

#### I will ask for your good. (R.)

#### SECOND READING  (Rom 13:11-14)

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

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,

and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL (Mt 24:37-44)**

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

#### Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

#### ‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** At the start of the liturgical year, we feel more deeply the sense of being on a “journey to the Father.” Holding fast to Christ, let us pray for the grace of authentic conversion. Let us pray:

**Reader:** That the Church and its leaders may see the Advent season as an acceptable time of salvation and invite all peoples to join in the great pilgrimage to the house of the Father.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That warring families and peoples may lay down their arms and seek peace and reconciliation.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those under the power of darkness may see light and abandon a life of drunkenness, sexual excess, quarrelling, and jealousy

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the handicapped, the sick, the hungry, and the victims of calamity and injustice may find consolation from the Lord and support from his generous people

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:** **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 centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Priest:** Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**