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

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) – VIGIL MASS**

**5.30pm**

**Introduction:**

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

Good evening and welcome to our family Christmas Liturgy here at Mary Immaculate. Everyone is excited that Christmas has finally arrived. The four weeks of Advent are over and we have all prepared ourselves for this day, remembering and celebrating that, over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born. Behind all the hustle and bustle of the season is a wish for peace and goodwill among all people.

On this most holy night, Jesus the Saviour is born to give joy to the world and to save us from sin. Though almighty and powerful, God strips himself of his glory and makes himself small. This God-become-man is the one we welcome tonight. He is our Emmanuel, our God-with-us.

The Celebrant for tonight’s Mass is Fr. Oliver assisted by Deacon Leon.

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) –**

**VIGIL MASS**

 **5.30pm**

**MASS READINGS**

**FIRST READING (Is 62:1-5)**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

About Zion I will not be silent,

about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,

until her integrity shines out like the dawn

and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,

all the kings your glory,

and you will be called by a new name,

one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,

a princely diadem in the hand of your God;

no longer are you to be named ‘Forsaken’,

nor your land ‘Abandoned’,

but you shall be called ‘My Delight’

and your land ‘The Wedded’;

for the Lord takes delight in you

and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,

so will the one who built you wed you,

and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,

so will your God rejoice in you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2)**

***(R) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.***

1. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

 I have sworn to David my servant:

 I will establish your dynasty for ever

 and set up your throne through all ages.’ **(R.)**

**2.** Happy the people who acclaim such a king,

 who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,

 who find their joy every day in your name,

 who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

**3.** ‘He will say to me: “You are my father,

 my God, the rock who saves me.”

 I will keep my love for him always;

 for him my covenant shall endure.’ **(R.)**

**SECOND READING  (Acts 13:16-17. 22-25)**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

‘Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

 ‘Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, “I have
 selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my

 whole purpose”. To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of

 David’s descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John

 when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel.

 Before John ended his career he said, “I am not the one you imagine me to

 be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal”.’

 *The Word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:

the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL (Mt 1:1-25)**

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

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,

Perez was the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram was the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,

Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,

Obed was the father of Jesse;

and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife,

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,

Joram the father of Azariah,

Azariah was the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah;

and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:

Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,

Abiud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

Azor was the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Achim,

Achim the father of Eliud,

Eliud was the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob;

and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy

Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

**The Nativity of the Lord**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** On this holy day, let us present our petitions to the almighty Father who loves us as his children in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader:** That the world in agony, torn by division and strife, may be filled with tidings of comfort and joy.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That families throughout the world may become a dwelling place of your incarnate Son, Jesus our Emmanuel.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our religious and political leaders humble themselves as Jesus humbled himself, and be responsible stewards of your people.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Good News of your coming resound throughout the world so that people will hear the comforting words of hope and the promise of salvation.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That your light shine on those who still live in darkness, whose eyes are blinded by jealousy, hatred, and the lure of power and money.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who mourn the death of their loved ones may draw comfort from our belief that the departed ones are now with God, remembering those mentioned in our parish bulletin.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for Christmas.**

**All:** Loving Father help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

 Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

 Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

**Priest:** Father, hear our prayers and make this Christmas celebration a moment of thanksgiving and great sharing. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**