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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

The Decalogue, in the first reading, declares that the appropriate response to God’s liberation is for the people to obey God’s commandments as a charter of their freedom. In his zeal for God’s house, Jesus cleanses the temple, reacting against a kind of worship without a soul, against a religion motivated mainly by the pursuit of material gain. He is the living temple through which we who believe have access to the Father. We serve God with a loving heart.

The Celebrant for this Mass is:

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Ex 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17)**

A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, ‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

‘You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

‘Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

‘Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

‘You shall not kill.

‘You shall not commit adultery.

‘You shall not steal.

‘You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. ‘You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68)**

**(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

**1.** The law of the Lord is perfect,

it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,

it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

**2.** The precepts of the Lord are right,

they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,

it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

**3.** The fear of the Lord is holy,

abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth

and all of them just. **(R.)**

**4.** They are more to be desired than gold,

than the purest of gold

and sweeter are they than honey,

than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (1 Cor 1:22-25)**

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

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,

that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel (Jn 2:13-25)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.’ Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Let us pray to the Father that we may offer true worship and offer ourselves as his living temple.

**Reader:** May the Church continue to take the path of purification and conversion so that in every way it will be a community of praise and compassion.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May our religious and civil leaders see in Christ the power to save and the wisdom to lead.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the work of Caritas Australia among young people in Nepal, to rise above their poverty, be supported by our giving to Project Compassion, and in this Catholic Year of Youth, inspire our youth to reach out to other youth trapped in poverty.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May we respect our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. May we shun acts of lasciviousness, violence, and other indignities that harm the human person.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May all consecrated men and women foster an intimate and joyful communion with Christ through detachment from all material possessions.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the Lord give healing to the sick, comfort to the dying, conversion to sinners, and light to those experiencing darkness in their lives.

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 for Lent.**

**All:** Loving God, During the sacred season of Lent, bring us closer to you.

Prepare a place in our homes and hearts for silence and solitude, so that we may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Help us to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, remind us of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge our hearts so that we give to those in need and, in doing so,

re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle our love and faith in you.

**Priest:** Lord, cleanse our hearts of selfishness. Help us to love you and serve you in faithfulness and truth, and to show this by our concern for others.

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.