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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

The spirit of Lent invites us to recall our sins and failings, and moves us to be sorry for them. Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is Week 4 of Project Compassion, Caritas Australia’s six-week Lenten fundraising appeal.

The symbolism in today’s readings reminds us of the richness of God’s mercy and grace. In the Gospel today, we see Jesus speaking with Nicodemus. The same Nicodemus we are told a few verses earlier, who came to Jesus by night [John 3:10-12]. In the scriptures, night is often associated with secrecy and darkness. In contrast, later in John's Gospel, Jesus tells us he himself is the “light of the world".

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23)**

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

*The Word of the Lord*

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

**(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!**

**1.** By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;

on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps.**( R.)**

**2.** For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs,

our oppressors, for joy. ‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **(R.)**

**3.** O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **(R.)**

**4.** O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not,

if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Eph 2:4-10)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel (Jn 3:14-21)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up

as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,

so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much

that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe

in the name of God’s only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:

that though the light has come into the world

men have shown they prefer darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed;

but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Let us ask the heavenly Father to help us be like Christ his Son who loves the world and who died for our salvation.

**Reader:** Grant that Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, and consecrated men and women may be examples of self-giving love and so inspire the people to glorify you through their good works.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Inspire our government officials to build a world of peace and goodness and show concern for the good of all.

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:** Make our love grow deeper every day, so that we may share with others their joys and sorrows.

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:** For those who have died; especially those mentioned in our parish bulletin that they may find peace with God. We pray also for their families, that they feel the love of God through the comfort that they bring each other.

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.

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, make us witness to the spirit of the cross by becoming beacons of peace and hope for our brothers and sisters.

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.