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

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us to help our erring brothers and sisters and lead them to conversion and reform. Let us pray that the Lord may soften our hearts and fill them with patience and love. And may the Holy Spirit dispose the hearts of our erring brethren to our patient urgings and concerned admonitions.

Today is also Child Protection Sunday. It aims to engage and educate all Australians to understand they have a part to play in keeping our children and young people safe from violence, abuse and neglect.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Ez 33:7-9)**

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name.

If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death.

If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8)**

***(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!***

***Harden not your hearts.***

**1.** Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;

hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,

with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

**2.** Come in; let us bow and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us

for he is our God and we

the people who belong to his pasture,

the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

**3.** O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as on that day at Massah in the desert

when your fathers put me to the test;

when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Rom 13:8-10)**

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

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;

and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 18:15-20)**

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

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge.

But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time &**

**CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY- Year A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Gracious God listen to our children and communities today as we pray.

**Reader:** For the Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent and Leaders of Religious Congregations and all entrusted with the care of the Church. May they listen to the voice of children and promote the safety of minors and vulnerable adults.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For justice and healing for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and lay workers

We pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For all who work to make our churches, schools and families havens of safety and respect for the young and the vulnerable.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For our community, that we have the courage and compassion to stand up for victims, the humility to understand the wrongs of the past, the patience to stop and listen to children and the vulnerable and a greatness of heart that continues to grow.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For our Diocesan Synod may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit guide our journey so that we experience renewal in our local Church today and for generations to come.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For our beloved dead, especially those mentioned in our parish bulletin, Lord, give them a heavenly inheritance together with the angels and saints.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray for the succession of the Synod:

**All:** O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life, we call upon you to lead us forth united.

Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.

Keep us anchored in your love.

Open our hearts as we are called to go out into the deep.

Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility.

May we experience renewal in our local Church today, and for generations to

come.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide your Church, to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and forever. Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for us.

St Mary Of the Cross Mackillop, Pray for us.

**Priest:** Father, hear our prayers. Heal our troubled consciences and wounded hearts, and unite us as a family in your Church.

**All:** Amen.