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

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**Introduction:**

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

In today’s Gospel Jesus tells us that true happiness can only come from living the

values of God’s kingdom that are expressed in the Beatitudes.

Happiness belongs to those who rely on the Lord for their strength and protection.

It belongs to those who in their lives mirror Jesus who was meek and humble of heart.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please now stand and join in our Entrance Hymn.

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

#### MASS READINGS

#### FIRST READING (Zep 2:3; 3:12-13)

*A reading from the prophet Zephaniah*

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,

who obey his commands.

Seek integrity,

seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter

on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave

a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,

will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer

be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest

with no one to disturb them.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3)**

***(R) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!***

#### 1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,

#### who is just to those who are oppressed.

#### It is he who gives bread to the hungry,

#### the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

#### 2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,

#### who raises up those who are bowed down,

#### the Lord, who protects the stranger

#### and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

#### 3. It is the Lord who loves the just

#### but thwarts the path of the wicked.

#### The Lord will reign for ever,

#### Zion’s God, from age to age. (R.)

####  SECOND READING  (1 Cor 1:26-31)

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

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God’s doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;

Your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Mt 5:1-12)

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

#### Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

#### ‘How happy are the poor in spirit:

#### theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#### Happy the gentle:

#### they shall have the earth for their heritage.

#### Happy those who mourn:

#### they shall be comforted.

#### Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

#### they shall be satisfied.

#### Happy the merciful:

#### they shall have mercy shown them.

#### Happy the pure in heart:

#### they shall see God.

#### Happy the peacemakers:

#### they shall be called sons of God.

#### Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

#### theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#### ‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest: Let us pray to the heavenly Father that we may learn and live the spirit of the Beatitudes.**

**Reader:** That the Church continue to make a preferential option for the poor and thus witness to God’s love, providence, and mercy for them.

 *We Pray:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our political and civil leaders address and heal the wounds in our society brought about by political conflicts, unjust socio-economic divisions, corruption, and moral degeneration.

*We Pray:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those entrusted with the responsibilities to protect the rights and dignity of the human person receive guidance and graces to promote and defend the preservation of life.

*We Pray:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That members of our Christian community continue to be inspired by the Word of God and enjoy one another’s presence and support and know that as disciples of Jesus we are never alone when we work for God’s kingdom.

*We Pray:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the sick may experience the Lord’s strength and healing in our tender, loving care for them, and welcome to paradise the faithful departed.

*We Pray:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**All:** God, our Father, bless this parish Mary Immaculate so that we may love you more.

Help the parents to be good examples to the children and our youth to grow in love and strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, your Son has revealed to us the mysteries of your kingdom in the Beatitudes. Make us listen to him that we may gain favour in your sight.

This we ask through the same Jesus Christ your Son and our Lord.

**All: Amen.**