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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER.**

**Introduction**

Good Morning / Evening and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

Jesus is the way to the Father. We believe that living up to his teachings will mean eternal life for us. In this Eucharist, we worship him as

our Lord and guide. May this celebration renew our faith and courage to follow him.

Our Mass with be celebrate today by

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Acts 6:1-7)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked.

So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.’

The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22)**

***(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.***

**1.** Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;

for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,

with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs**. (R.)**

**2.** For the word of the Lord is faithful

and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right

and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

**3.** The Lord looks on those who revere him,

on those who hope in his love,

to rescue their souls from death,

to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (1 Pt 2:4-9)**

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed.

That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;

no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Jn 14:1-12)**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

‘I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

**Priest: Let us bring before the Father the needs of the universal Church, our community, and the world. We trust that God will listen to us because we pray in Jesus’ name.**

**Reader:** For the Holy Father Francis, our bishops, priests, and deacons: may they not tire of presenting Christ as the one Mediator between God and humankind, who alone leads us to the Father.

*We pray:*

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

**Reader:** For our government officials: following the example of the deacons of the early Church, may they apply themselves to public service and strive to attend to the needs of the people.

*We pray:*

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

**Reader:** For our ecclesial and parish community: like the first Christians, may we strive for peace, harmony, and sharing within our community.

*We pray:*

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

**Reader:** For those who are in most need of God’s help: may the Lord come quickly to their assistance, and may they find solace in their faith.

*We pray:*

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

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for Easter:

**All:** God of power and might, by your holy will you raised Jesus from the dead so that we might share his life eternally. As we rejoice and give you thanks for your great goodness and mercy, help us to reach out to those who do not yet believe in the truth of the gospel.

Fill us with your compassion so that we may serve the weak and needy for love of you.

Strengthen the faith of our families so that we may grow together in love. May your joy grow in us day by day.

**Priest: Heavenly Father, you have given us Jesus your Son to be**

**our way, our truth, and our life.**

**Help us to listen to him and put his teaching into practice, that**

**we may be worthy to enter into your kingdom, where he reigns**

**with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.**

**All: Amen.**