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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**Introduction**

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

In today’s Gospel, Jesus invites us to look into our hearts. His answer to those who would condemn the woman caught in adultery applies also to us: He who has no sin be the first to cast a stone. We may be better off than other people, but not because we are less of a sinner than they. It is because we are not exposed for what we are. But God sees into our hearts, and tells us not to condemn easily because we, too, are in need of his forgiveness.

This year’s Project Compassion showcases the many ways we work around the world with our local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

**SUNDAY 7th April**

**fifth Sunday OF LENT - Year C**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### FIRST READING   (Is 43:16-21)

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord,

who made a way through the sea,

a path in the great waters;

who put chariots and horse in the field

and a powerful army,

which lay there never to rise again,

snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,

no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed,

even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,

paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,

jackals and ostriches,

because I am putting water in the wilderness

(rivers in the wild)

to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself

will sing my praises.

*The Word of the Lord.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 125. R. v.3)

***R- The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.***

#### 1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,

#### it seemed like a dream.

#### Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

#### on our lips there were songs. (R.)

#### 2. The heathens themselves said: ‘What marvels

#### the Lord worked for them!’

#### What marvels the Lord worked for us!

#### Indeed we were glad. (R.)

#### 3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage

#### as streams in dry land.

#### Those who are sowing in tears

#### will sing when they reap. (R.)

#### 4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,

#### carrying seed for the sowing:

#### they come back, they come back, full of song,

#### carrying their sheaves. (R.)

#### SECOND READING  (Phil 3:8-14)

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

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

With all your heart turn to me,

for I am tender and compassionate.

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

#### GOSPEL (Jn 8:1-11)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, ‘Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?’ They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, ‘If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.’ Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she replied. ‘Neither do I condemn you,’ said Jesus ‘go away, and don’t sin any more.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — Let us humbly pray to God our Father to forgive us our sins and to help us to forgive and to love those who have sinned against us.

**Reader:** To the world whose sense of sin is weakened, may the Church and her leaders expose the gravity of sin and at the same time proclaim that God’s mercy is greater than any sin.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the mercy of God touch the hearts and minds of government and civil leaders so that they may extend the merciful hands of Jesus to the unborn, the stranger, and the sinner.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May media practitioners have respect for the dignity and good name of the human person even as they cover events and help expose corruption and wrongdoing in our society.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May couples strive to be faithful to the marriage vows they made before God and his Church, so that their families may be spared from the evil of adultery and divorce.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** As we celebrate the commemoration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ through the Eucharist, may families be attuned to prayer, sharing, understanding, and forgiveness.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular those mention in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our parish community prayer for the season of 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:** Father of mercy, hear the prayers of your people. Strengthen us to avoid sin, to rise each time we fall. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.