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

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - YEAR B- 9.00PM & MIDNIGHT**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

Good evening and welcome to our family Christmas Liturgy here at Mary Immaculate. Everyone is excited that Christmas has finally arrived. The four weeks of Advent are over and we have all prepared ourselves for this day, remembering and celebrating that, over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born. Behind all the hustle and bustle of the season is a wish for peace and goodwill among all people.

On this most holy night, Jesus the Savior is born to give joy to the world and to save us from sin. Though almighty and powerful, God strips himself of his glory and makes himself small. This God-become-man is the one we welcome tonight. He is our Emmanuel, our God-with-us.

The Celebrant for this Mass is **Fr. Oliver, assisted by Deacon Leon**

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Is 9:1-7)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase;

they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time,

as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders,

the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,

Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end,

for the throne of David and for his royal power,

which he establishes and makes secure

in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever,

the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2)**

***(R.)*** *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

**1.** O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

**2.** Proclaim his help day by day,

tell among the nations his glory

and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

**3.** Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,

let the sea and all within it thunder praise,

let the land and all it bears rejoice,

all the trees of the wood shout for joy

at the presence of the Lord for he comes,

he comes to rule the earth (R.)

**4.** With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

**Second Reading (Ti 2:11-14)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Lk 2:1-14)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered.

So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David’s House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.

Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Through his Only Begotten son, Jesus our ‘Emmanuel,” let us present to the Father our hopes, fears and the longings of all humanity.

**Reader:** That Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent and leaders of all religions be visible signs of justice, compassion and hope throughout the world.

We pray.

**R – Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the people of all nations, that the Lord may graciously preserve harmony among them so that all can enjoy peace.

We pray.

**R – Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our brothers and sisters who cannot be with their families tonight—doctors and nurses in hospitals, migrant workers abroad, soldiers on duty, prisoners in jails—may they all experience the comfort of your presence through the generosity and companionship of other people.

We pray.

**R – Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Christ, born in a lowly manger, will stir us to show compassion for those in need. We think especially of people living on the street who are homeless. May we find ways to celebrate Christmas with them.

We pray.

**R – Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who are alone this Christmas will find comfort and companionship and may the sick in our community find healing and peace of mind.

We pray.

**R – Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May our family members, relatives, and friends who have died experience everlasting joy in the company of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, especially remembering all those mentioned in our parish bulletin.

We pray.

**R – Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**All:** Loving God, During this holy season of Christmas we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary’s openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph’s courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus’ life ignite all families with a spirit of life and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.

**Priest:** Be with us, Lord, as we remember the birth of Jesus.

Thank you for coming among us, showing us the way to use the many gifts that you have given us. Let us be bearers of your peace so that all may know that you are a God of Hope, Joy and Love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

**All:** Amen.