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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

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

When Jesus is with his disciples, he is their friend and defender. But after his death

and Resurrection, Jesus will return to the Father. At the Last Supper, he tells the disciples not to be sad because he will not leave them orphaned. He will send them the Holy Spirit who will act in his name. At this Eucharistic celebration, the Holy Spirit is with us. Let us open our hearts to his inspiration.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Acts 8:5-8. 14-17)**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*The Word of the Lord*

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

***(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.***

**1.** Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: ‘How tremendous your deeds!**(R.)**

**2.** ‘Before you all the earth shall bow;

shall sing to you, sing to your name!’

Come and see the works of God,

tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**

**3.** He turned the sea into dry land,

they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;

he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**

**4.** Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer

nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (1 Pt 3:15-18)**

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

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

*The Word of the Lord*

 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,

and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Jn 14:15-21)**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — Let us now turn to our loving Father through the power of Holy Spirit and present to him our needs as well as those of the Church and of the world.

**Reader:** — That the leaders of the Church may know the power of the Holy Spirit so that they may be compassionate shepherds and defenders of God’s people.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That civil and political leaders may be given the wisdom and strength to carry out their responsibilities

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those whose faith is weakened by trials and difficulties may find strength in the Holy Spirit who is their consoler and defender

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That, as temples of the Holy Spirit, we may learn to value ourselves and one another, shun corruption and sin, and give glory to our heavenly Father

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That with our good lives we may build up our faith communities amidst so much suffering and hopelessness.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the dead: especially for our deceased family, friends, those mentioned in our parish bulletin and for those priests who have served our parish and Diocese. May they enjoy the reward of their labours.

 We pray:

**R — 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:** Father, look with kindness on the petitions we bring before you. May the Holy Spirit open our hearts to you.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.