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

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

As we contemplate the Incarnation of the Son of God, we praise God who created the family of humankind and who, in the fullness of time, sent his Son to be a part of our family. Christmas is a celebration of the family. May today’s feast of the Holy Family of Jesus and Mary and Joseph teach us to value family life and to live in peace with one another as members of the one family of God.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

**Saturday 5.30pm -**

**Sunday 7.30am –**

**Sunday 9.00am –**

**Sunday 10.30am –**

**Sunday 6.00pm –**

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3)**

A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, ‘Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great’.

‘My Lord’, Abram replied, ‘what do you intend to give me? I go childless...’ Then Abram said, ‘See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.’ And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, ‘He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.’ Then taking him outside he said, ‘Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,’ he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8)**

***(R.)*** *The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,

make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;

tell all his wonderful works! **(R.)**

2. Be proud of his holy name,

let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

Consider the Lord and his strength;

constantly seek his face. **(R.)**

3. Remember the wonders he has done,

his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,

O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R.)**

4. He remembers his covenant for ever,

his promise for a thousand generations,

the covenant he made with Abraham,

the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19)**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Lk 2:22-40)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,

just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared for all the nations to see,

a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Let us pray to the Father that the Holy Family, the perfect model of every human family, may help each family to grow in understanding of its mission in the Church and in society.

**Reader:** May the Church, like the family of Nazareth, be an example of unity, faithfulness, and love especially in places where families suffer internal crises.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May government and civil leaders be mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its role in God’s plan.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May husbands and wives remain faithful to their covenant of love in marriage and find their fulfillment through the sincere gift of oneself.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May children honor their father and their mother and give joy to them through love and obedience; may parents bring up their children to live in truth, love, and self-giving.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May families stricken by poverty, separation, and animosity be strengthened by the solidarity and support of generous persons.

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 the Season of 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:** Father, hear our prayers and supplications. May we live our days in humble service to you through our concern for the good of the family.

Through Christ our Lord.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.