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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B**

**Introduction:**

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

**READ AT ALL MASSES**

In our spiritual life, we need Christ as surely as a branch needs to remain on the vine. Without him, we can do nothing. We need him to reconcile us to the Father. We need his grace and his strength that we may do good and face the trials and sufferings of life.

**ONLY READ AT 10.30AM MASS**

Our mass this morning has an important event - the annual commissioning of the members of the Special Religious Education (SRE) Catechist ministry of our parish. The rite of commissioning is an excellent support and affirmation by the parish community. It is an annual celebration, commissioning SREs at the beginning of each school year as they commit themselves to this important ministry. Just like Jesus who sent the apostles to proclaim the Good News, Fr Oliver will bless them and send them on their way to share God's love with the students and the local school communities where Catholic scripture is taught.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

 **Sat 5.30pm Vigil –   Monsignor Cezar**

**Sun 7.30am- Fr Oliver**

**Sun 9am-   Fr. Dado**

**Sun 10.30am – Fr. Oliver**

**Sun 12.30pm-   check before mass starts**

**Sun 5.30pm-   Monsignor Cezar**

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** **Acts 9:26-31**

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

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they

were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a

disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to

the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul

and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly

at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round

with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the

Lord.

But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with

them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers

knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to

Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now

left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord,

and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26**

***(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.***

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! ***(R.)***

1. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.  ***(R.)***
2. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: ‘These things the Lord has done.’ (***R.)***

**SECOND READING  1 Jn 3:18-24**

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

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk,

but something real and active;

only by this can we be certain

that we are the children of the truth

and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,

whatever accusations it may raise against us,

because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,

we need not be afraid in God’s presence, and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;

my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL   Jn 15:1-8**

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

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the

vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** As we affirm our faith in Jesus our Lord, we thank our heavenly Father and ask him to fill us with his choicest blessings.

**Reader:** Keep the Church in your love, guide and protect all Church leaders, and make your people a leaven in the transformation of the world.

We Pray:

**R — Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

**Reader:** Bless all families with your strength and love, with your joy and peace, with health and laughter.

We Pray:

**R — Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

**Reader:** Grant that the sick and the lonely, those in bondage and those in exile receive consolation and help.

We Pray:

**R — Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

**Reader:** Lord God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us and to proclaim his message of faith, hope, and love to all nations. Strengthen our catechists with your gifts, that they may teach by word and by example the truth that comes from you

We pray:

**R — Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

**Reader:** Lord, strengthen these servants of yours in their commitment to dedicate themselves as catechists. Grant that they will strive to share with others what they themselves derive from pondering your Word and studying the Church’s teaching.

We pray:

**R — Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for those who have died, members of our families, our friends who have gone before us especially those mentioned in our parish bulletin, may the Risen Lord greet them with love and mercy and grant them the happiness of His kingdom.

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:** Heavenly Father, give us all the joyful reassurance that you are always with us through your Son Jesus, our Lord. Grant that we may never be separated from you, so that we may bear much fruit for your glory.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.