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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

“We would like to see Jesus.” These words, spoken by some Greeks to Philip, express the goal of Lent and of Christian living. Jesus responds to this desire by speaking of his “hour” of glory, referring to his death and resurrection. He uses two images: the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to produce much fruit, and his being lifted up or being crucified and exalted at the same time. Jesus’ glory is revealed not only in the resurrection but also in the very act of dying.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Jer 31:31-34)**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master.

It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks.

Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68)**

**(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

**1.** Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt.

and cleanse me from my sin. **R.)**

**2.** A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

nor deprive me of your holy spirit **(R.)**

**3.** Give me again the joy of your help;

with a spirit of fervour sustain me,

that I may teach transgressors your ways

and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Heb 5:7-9)**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;

and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ

**Gospel (Jn 12:20-33)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come

for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly,

unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,

it remains only a single grain;

but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;

anyone who hates his life in this world

will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,

wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world;

now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,

I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — Let us ask the heavenly Father to help us be like Christ his Son who loves the world and who died for our salvation.

**Reader:** Grant that Pope Francis, the bishops, the clergy, and consecrated men and women may be examples of self-giving love and so inspire the people to glorify you through their good works.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Inspire our government officials to build a world of peace and goodness and show concern for the good of all.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the work of Caritas Australia among young people, to rise above their poverty, be supported by our giving to Project Compassion, and in this Catholic Year of Youth, inspire our youth to reach out to other youth trapped in poverty.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Make our love grow deeper every day, so that we may share with others their joys and sorrows.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May all the consecrated men and women courageously proclaim their faith in Christ’s Death and Resurrection and become a visible sign of the passage from death to life.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the Lord give healing to the sick, comfort to the dying, conversion to sinners, and light to those experiencing darkness in their lives.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died; especially those mentioned in our parish bulletin that they may find peace with God. We pray also for their families, that they feel the love of God through the comfort that they bring each other.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, listen to your people.**

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

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, make us witness to the spirit of the cross by becoming beacons of peace and hope for our brothers and sisters.

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.