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

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE - YEAR A**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

The last Sunday in the liturgical calendar of the Church celebrates Christ, the King of the universe. This King is a shepherd who cares for all of us and protects us.

He is the firstborn of all creation to whom everything is subjected. And Christ is the King who judges the nations on the basis of care and concern for the needy.

We are true subjects of Christ the King when we minister to the needs of the least in our midst, for whatever we do to them, we do to Christ.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Ez 34:11-12. 15-17)**

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view.

I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1)**

***(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

**1.** The Lord is my shepherd;

 there is nothing I shall want.

 Fresh and green are the pastures

 where he gives me repose. (R.)

**2.** Near restful waters he leads me,

 to revive my drooping spirit.

 He guides me along the right path;

 he is true to his name. (R.)

**3.** You have prepared a banquet for me

 in the sight of my foes.

 My head you have anointed with oil;

 my cup is overflowing. (R.)

**4.**  Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

 all the days of my life.

 In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell

 for ever and ever. (R.)

**Second Reading (1 Cor 15:20-26. 28)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man.

Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him.

After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power.

For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death.

And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 25:31-46)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.

He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.” Next he will say to those on his left hand,

“Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — Let us pray to the Father that as we celebrate the kingship

of his Son, we may seek always his kingdom and persevere in becoming witnesses to it through our piety and works of charity.

**Reader:** That through Christ, our King and Shepherd, the shepherds of the Church may follow Christ’s example who tend the weak, seek out the lost, and gather all the sheep into one flock,

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** That through Christ, our Leader and Saviour, government and civil leaders may lead the nation to a more loving and caring community which promote and

protect the dignity and rights of the poor, the marginalized, and the weak,

We pray:

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

**Reader:** That through Christ, our Prince of Peace, warring nations may realize that true peace comes from God and that violence and terrorism are not the means of

God to establish his kingdom,

We pray:

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

**Reader:** That in life and in death we will always belong to the Lord, as we entrust our departed relatives and parishioners into God’s loving hands, who died recently and all those mentioned in our parish bulletin and our parish wall of remembrance.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** **Together we now pray the prayer for the Feast of Christ the**

 **King.**

**All:** O Jesus Christ, we acknowledge you as universal King. All that has been made has been created for You. Exercise all Your rights over us.

 We renew our Baptismal Vows. We renounce Satan, his pomp's and his works; we promise to live as good Christians.

 And, in particular we pledge ourselves to labor, to the best of our ability, for the triumph of the rights of God and of Your Church.

 Divine Heart of Jesus, to You do we offer our services, laboring that all hearts may acknowledge Your sacred kingship, and that the reign of Your peace be established throughout the whole universe.

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, grant our humble petitions, that we may live as your faithful followers who proclaim that your Son is our Master and King by our acts of

love and kindness to our brothers and sisters.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.