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

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**Introduction**

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

Today, Jesus Christ comes with the good news that God cares for the poor, the captives, the handicapped, and all unhappy people. Jesus announces that God’s love and acceptance are revealed in what he says and does, because he is the one who fulfills the ancient prophecies about God’s salvation.

This weekend our nation celebrates Australia Day, which is the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet from Great Britain in 1788. We are thankful to our Lord for blessing this nation with a diverse society and landscape, our remarkable achievements and our bright future. This weekend is also a fantastic opportunity to reflect on our nation’s history and to consider how we can make Australia an even better place in the future.

Our Mass will be celebrated tonight by:

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,

it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,

it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,

they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,

it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,

abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth

and all of them just. (R.)

4. May the spoken words of my mouth,

the thoughts of my heart,

win favour in your sight, O Lord,

my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:12-30

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

Together you are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,’ would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you,’ nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

or

Shorter form

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

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

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Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor

and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,

to proclaim liberty to captives

and to the blind new sight,

to set the downtrodden free,

to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

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**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: Let us pray to the Father who sent his Son to us to proclaim the Good News of his forgiveness and salvation. Confident of his love, we pray:

**Reader:** That the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and all ministers of the Word may tirelessly bring Christ’s Good News to the poor, the sick, the prisoners,

and the lonely.

We pray:

**R —** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Word of God may become a beacon of hope for families still in agony because of separation, terrorism, poverty, materialism, and hopelessness.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Word of God may inspire the faithful in realizing that the Word and Eucharist is the life of every Christian.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time and those mentioned in our parish bulletin, May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray the Prayer for the Parish  
Community.

**All:** God, our Father, bless this parish Mary Immaculate so that we  
may love you more. Help the parents to be good examples to  
the children and our youth to grow in love and strength as good Christians.  
Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant  
health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow joy.  
May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

**Priest:** Gracious God, open our hearts and minds to your Spirit, the Spirit of holiness and graciousness that prompts us to offer these prayers to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.