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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

John the Baptist appears in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The prophet’s voice should awaken us from spiritual lukewarmness. Like the people who listen to him, we should get up on our feet and go to meet the Lord. But first we have to look deep within us and realize that we are unprepared to meet him. The mountains of our pride and our sinfulness, the valleys of our preoccupation with the things of this world, make for an uneven path. We have to make ready a straight path for the Lord by renewal and conversion.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Is 40:1-5. 9-11)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’

says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem

and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness

a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God

across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8)**

***(R.)*** *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

**1.** I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him

and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

**2.** Mercy and faithfulness have met;

justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth

and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

**3.** The Lord will make us prosper

and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him

and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

**Second Reading (2 Pt 3:8-14)**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mk 1:1-8)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — The Lord is faithful and does not delay in keeping his promise of salvation. With confidence, let us pray to the Father.

**Reader:** For the Church: Like John the Baptist who pointed to Christ, may the Church point out with fresh vigour to the men and women of today that Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of humanity and the Lord of history.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** For government and civil leaders: Like John the Baptist who professed his unworthiness to stoop and loosen the thongs of the Messiah’s sandals, may they recognise their own sinfulness and unworthiness and experience God’s gift of conversion.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** For consecrated men and women: Like John the Baptist, may they prepare the way of the Lord through their acts of service to the least of our brothers and sisters.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** For those who, for a long time, have stayed away from the sacrament of Reconciliation: May they experience the season of Advent as a time of renewing their relationship with God and continuing Christ’s mission of love and service.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** For our environment: May people everywhere contribute to make the earth a safe, fruitful, and beautiful home to live in.

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 during Advent.**

**All:** God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Celebrant:** Father, without you we can do nothing for our salvation. Warm our hearts and strengthen our resolve that we may live for you and for one another.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.