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

**SUNDAY, 23RD JULY 2023:**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

Today’s Gospel parable of the Weeds among the Wheat gives us an explanation of faith: God sows only good seed; evil comes from the hearts of men and women who choose not to obey him. Still, God patiently waits for the harvest, bearing with slow growth and making room for repentance.

Let us ask for the gift to be patient with one another’s faults and to heed God’s call for a change of heart.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**SUNDAY, 23RD JULY 2023:**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Wis 12:13.16-19)**

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,

to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,

your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned

and you expose the insolence of those who know it;

but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,

you govern us with great lenience,

for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people

how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,

and you have given your sons the good hope

that after sin you will grant repentance.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5)**

***(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.***

**1.** O Lord, you are good and forgiving,

full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer

and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**

**2.** All the nations shall come to adore you

and glorify your name, O Lord:

for you are great and do marvellous deeds,

you who alone are God. **(R.)**

**3.** But you, God of mercy and compassion,

slow to anger, O Lord,

abounding in love and truth,

turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Rom 8:26-27)**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

***Gospel:*** ***Mt 13:24-30* (*Shorter form)***

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

*Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this” he answered.*

*And the servants said,*

*“Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’*

***The Gospel of the Lord***

***Gospel:* (**[**Mt 13:24-43**](https://liturgyhelp.com/ritual/lectionary/LectionaryList%7Cmtw#mtw013)**)**

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

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’

He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’

He told them another parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since

the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

***The Gospel of the Lord***

**SUNDAY, 23RD JULY 2023:**

**Sixteenth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — God has sown his word in our hearts so that we may grow fruitful in our Christian discipleship.

**Reader:** May the Church become more fully conscious of her mission as evangelizers of the Word so that people may be led to renewal and conversion.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May government leaders reject the culture of death and revenge by tempering their sense of justice with mercy and compassion.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May family members nourish themselves with daily meditation of the Word of God and constant acts of charity.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May lawbreakers, criminals, and those considered “weeds” of society, realize the great chance God gives them to reform their lives.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the poor and the oppressed who suffer from societies unfair systems never lose hope but continue to trust in God who shall judge everyone justly in the end.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For our Diocesan Synod may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit guide our journey so that we experience renewal in our local Church today and for generations to come.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for all our departed family, friends and parishioners, and those mentioned in our parish bulletin, may they experience the fullness of God’s love.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray for the succession of the Synod:

**All:** O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life, we call upon you to lead us forth united.

 Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.

 Keep us anchored in your love.

 Open our hearts as we are called to go out into the deep.

 Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility.

 May we experience renewal in our local Church today, and for generations to come.

 We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide your Church, to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and forever. Amen

 Our Lady Help of Christians, Pray for us.

 St Mary Of the Cross Mackillop, Pray for us.

**Celebrant:** Almighty Father, help us in our weakness. Send your Spirit to strengthen us in our struggle against evil. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.