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

**ASCENSION SUNDAY, MOTHERS DAY & WORLD DAY OF COMMUNICATIONS - YEAR B**

**Introduction.**

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

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Lord’s Ascension. Jesus’ return to the Father marks the end of his public ministry and his appearance to the disciples after his resurrection. Through his gift of the Holy Spirit, he will accompany them in their task of preaching the Good News, as they build communities of disciples.

This weekend we also celebrate Mother’s Day. We especially welcome here all mums of all ages. We ask everyone to remember in their prayers today all Mothers everywhere, that they will receive the support they need to fulfil this command in their daily lives.

We also celebrate World Day of Communications.

The theme for 2024 is Artificial **intelligence and wisdom of the heart: for a fully human communication.**

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Antiphon

**the ascension of the lord - Year B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**   **Acts 1:1-11**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is,’ he had said, ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’

Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

***(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

1. All peoples, clap your hands,

cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,

great king over all the earth. ***(R.)***

1. God goes up with shouts of joy;

the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,

sing praise to our king, sing praise. ***(R.)***

1. God is king of all the earth.

Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations;

God reigns on his holy throne. (***R.)***

**SECOND READING Eph 4:1-13**

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

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would:

When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners,

he gave gifts to men.

When it says, ‘he ascended’, what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL   Mk 16:15-20**

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

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, ‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.’

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD & MOTHER DAY –**

**YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** Jesus Christ ascends to the Father to plead with us and for us. Through him we pray to the Father for the needs of the Church and the whole world.

**Reader:** For the Church throughout the world: For Pope Francis, Church leaders and Christians everywhere. May they communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ with courage and conviction.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for our mothers who hold us and feed us, who care for us, and kiss away our pain. May our lives reflect the love they showed us.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for older mothers whose children are now grown up. Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for mothers who face the demand of single motherhood. Grant them strength and wisdom.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for mothers who are raising their children in poverty, in war-torn countries or in refugee detention centres. Grant them relief and justice.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer**

**Reader:** We pray for those in our parish who are grieving the loss of their mother. We also pray for all departed mothers, our loves ones and those mentioned in our parish bulletin, grant them comfort and hope in the risen and ascended Lord.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for Mother’s

Day

**All:** O Loving Lord, We thank you for the gift of Motherhood.

May those blessed with children be granted the gifts of courage, perseverance and understanding.

May they enjoy good health and spiritual well being

to enable them to care for their families.

May they face each new day with faith and hope

in your abiding love.

May they be showered with your blessings

as they work tirelessly to support their families.

Give them strength to model compassion and forgiveness.

Bind all families in the bonds of peace and safety

so that mothers themselves will feel nurtured by love.

**Priest:** Lord God, Jesus your Son commanded us to love one another and showed us a marvellous example in his own life. May we grow in love so that we may be worthy of being called your children. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.