

Novena Simbang Gabi &

Dawn Mass

IN HONOUR OF

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER

IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS.



Mary Immaculate Parish Quakers Hill

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NOTE: PLEASE LEAVE THIS ON THE AMBO, THANKS.

FIRST NOVENA MASS

Monday 15th December 7.00pm & Tuesday 16th December 4.30am

Introduction

Good Evening/ Morning and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

The Gospel narrative today reminds us that even those once despised can, through humble repentance, become the first to enter God's kingdom, reminding us that true obedience is rooted in a contrite heart rather than mere words. The chief priests' stubbornness warns us that hearing Christ's call is insufficient unless we allow that call to transform our lives.

Our Mass will be celebrated today:

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:1-2. 9-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Messianic salvation is promised to all of the poor.

Trouble is coming to the rebellious, the defiled,
the tyrannical city!

She would never listen to the call,
would never learn the lesson;
she has never trusted in the Lord,
never drawn near to her God.

Yes, I will then give the peoples
lips that are clean,
so that all may invoke the name of the Lord
and serve him under the same yoke.

From beyond the banks of the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants
will bring me offerings.

When that day comes
you need feel no shame for all the misdeeds
you have committed against me,
for I will remove your proud boasters
from your midst;
and you will cease to strut
on my holy mountain.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3. 6-7. 16. 18-19. 23, R. v.7

(R.) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

2. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

3. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)

4. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, O Lord, do not delay:
forgive the sins of your people.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John came and sinners believed in him.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: Let us pray to the heavenly Father that, reflecting the light of the Lord Jesus, we may also become like lighted lamps for men and women, as John the Baptist was.

Reader: May our celebration of the Novena Masses be truly an act of praise and thanksgiving to God for our faith and a sign of our love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That government and Church leaders work together in helping our country rise above the evils of corruption, division, and violence.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: May families, communities, and the whole nation work for goodwill and reconciliation as we all prepare for the Lord's coming with peaceful and joyful hearts.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: May every Novena Mass we participate in fill us with joy and peace, and that we may share them with all whom we encounter in leisure and in work.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: May those who have no faith, come to experience the love of Jesus Christ this Christmas.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the faithful departed may find pardon and peace and be numbered among the saints in heaven.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to Our Lady.

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: Listen to us, Almighty Father, for through your Son, you bring light and joy to our lives. Help us to live up to our Advent resolutions until he comes again in glory.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Vigil Tuesday/Wednesday - 16/17 December

SECOND NOVENA MASS

**Tuesday 16th December 7.00pm & Wednesday 17th December
4.30am**

Introduction

Good Morning /Evening and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

Today's Gospel presents the genealogy of our Lord Jesus. The evangelist Matthew tells us that the culmination of Israel's history is the coming of the Messiah. In Jesus, the history of salvation finds its fullness and ultimate meaning.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

7.00pm:

4.30am:

Please stand and join in our entrance hymn

First Reading

Genesis 49:2. 8-10

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sceptre shall not pass from Judah.

Jacob called his sons and said,

‘Gather round, sons of Jacob, and listen;
listen to Israel your father.

Judah, your brothers shall praise you: you grip your enemies by the neck,
your father’s sons shall do you homage. Judah is a lion cub,
you climb back, my son, from your kill; like a lion he crouches and lies down,
or a lioness: who dare rouse him? The sceptre shall not pass from Judah,
nor the mace from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs, to
whom the peoples shall render obedience.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-4. 7-8. 17. R. see v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king’s son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. May the mountains bring forth peace for the people
and the hills, justice.
May he defend the poor of the people
and save the children of the needy. (R.)

3. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth’s bounds. (R.)

4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come,
Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:1-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David.

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,
Perez was the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram was the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,
Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,
Obed was the father of Jesse;
and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,
Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
Joram the father of Azariah,
Azariah was the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah;
and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.
Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor was the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob;
and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary;
of her was born Jesus who is called Christ. The sum of generations is therefore:
fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian
deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: **We bring our petitions before the heavenly Father, who in his great love for us has sent his Son, so that we may be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.**

Reader: That the Church, embracing saints and sinners alike in her bosom, may strengthen herself by encouraging her children to incessantly pursue the path of penance and renewal,

We Pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That we may allow neither the sins and scandals in our family life and in the Church nor the corruption in our community and society to overcome the goodness and goodwill in our hearts,

We Pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That our participation in the Novena Masses may promote among us a spirituality of communion, making us able to share the joys and sufferings of our brothers and sisters in the community and in the parish

We Pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That members of families who are separated by distance, misunderstanding, or apathy may experience homecoming, reconciliation, and togetherness Christmas,

We Pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died may be forgiven of their sins and rest in peace in the Kingdom of God,

We pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to

Our Lady.

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: Father, you decreed, and your Word became man, born of the Virgin Mary. May we follow the example of Christ who humbled himself to save us from our sins.

You who live and reign forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Vigil Wednesday/Thursday - 17/18 December

THIRD NOVENA MASS

**Wednesday 17th December 7.00pm & Thursday 18th December
4.30am**

Introduction

Good Evening/Morning and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

On this third day of our Novena Mass, the angel Gabriel reveals to Joseph the mystery behind Mary's conception, which earlier caused him a severe crisis.

We admire Joseph for his attentiveness and docility to the voice of God. After receiving the message of the angel, Joseph does everything the Lord wants him to do: he takes Mary and her Child under his care.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by

7.00pm:

4.30am:

Please stand and join in our entrance hymn

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will raise a virtuous Branch for David.

‘See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –
when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David,
who will reign as true king and be wise,
practising honesty and integrity in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel dwell in confidence.
And this is the name he will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.

‘So, then, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when people will no longer say, “As the Lord lives who brought the sons of Israel out of the Land of Egypt!” but, “As the Lord lives who led back and brought home the descendants of the House of Israel out of the land of the North and from all the countries to which he had dispersed them, to live on their own soil.”’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 12-13. 18-19. R. see v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king’s son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
3. Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel,
who alone works wonders,
ever blessed his glorious name.
Let his glory fill the earth.
Amen! Amen! (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come,
Leader of ancient Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
rescue us with your mighty power!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: As we bring our prayers to our heavenly Father, let us pray especially for fathers that they may mirror God's love here on earth.

Reader: That our Holy Father Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated persons, and lay leaders may, like St. Joseph, mirror your love by their fatherly care of your people, their spiritual children.

We Pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That government officials and civil leaders may be sensitive and discerning of God's plan as it unfolds in the events of our national life,

We Pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That fathers working abroad or far from home may remain faithful to their families and be filled with the consolation of St. Joseph as they celebrate Christmas away from their loved ones,

We Pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are undergoing crises in their personal and family lives may have the faith and hope of St. Joseph who sought to see God's will in unexpected and even painful realities,

We Pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died may they be filled with the joy of seeing Jesus face to face.

We pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to Our Lady.

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: Fill us with your Spirit, O Lord. Teach us to do your will that we may become united as one family under your fatherhood. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Vigil Thursday/Friday - 18/19 December

FOURTH NOVENA MASS

Thursday 18th December 7.00pm & Friday 19th December 4.30am

Introduction

Good Morning and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

God's messenger announces to Zechariah that the priest will have a son. Zechariah could not bring himself to believe this extraordinary news. The name given to the promised son is "Yohanan" or John, which means "God is gracious." Indeed, the conception of John the Baptist is a manifestation of God's graciousness which will reach its culmination in the birth of the Messiah. This glimpse of the messenger who will prepare the way of the Lord fills us with joy and gladness, for indeed salvation is so close.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

7:00pm

4:30am

First Reading

Judges 13:2-7. 24-25

A reading from the book of Judges

The birth of Samson was announced by an angel.

There was a man of Zorah of the tribe of Dan, called Manoah. His wife was barren, she had borne no children. The angel of the Lord appeared to this woman and said to her, 'You are barren and have had no child. But from now on take great care. Take no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. For you will conceive and bear a son. No razor is to touch his head, for the boy shall be God's nazirite from his mother's womb. It is he who will begin to rescue Israel from the power of the Philistines.' Then the woman went and told her husband, 'A man of God has just come to me; his presence was like the presence of the angel of God, he was so majestic. I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not reveal his name to me. But he said to me, "You will conceive and bear a son. From now on, take no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. For the boy shall be God's nazirite from his mother's womb to his dying day."'

The woman gave birth to a son and called him Samson. The child grew, and the Lord blessed him; and the spirit of the Lord began to move him.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 70:3-6. 16-17. R. see v.8

(R.) Fill me with your praise
and I will sing your glory!

1. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. (R.)
2. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help. (R.)
3. I will declare the Lord's mighty deeds
proclaiming your justice, yours alone.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come,
Flower of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
save us without delay!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:5-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The birth of John the Baptist was announced by Gabriel.

In the days of King Herod of Judaea there lived a priest called Zechariah who belonged to the Abijah section of the priesthood, and he had a wife, Elizabeth by name, who was a descendant of Aaron. Both were worthy in the sight of God, and scrupulously observed all the commandments and observances of the Lord. But they were childless: Elizabeth was barren and they were both getting on in years.

Now it was the turn of Zechariah's section to serve, and he was exercising his priestly office before God when it fell to him by lot, as the ritual custom was, to enter the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense there. And at the hour of incense the whole congregation was outside, praying.

Then there appeared to him the angel of the Lord, standing on the right of the altar of incense. The sight disturbed Zechariah and he was overcome with fear. But the angel said to him, 'Zechariah, do not be afraid, your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth is to bear you a son and you must name him John. He will be your joy and delight and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord; he must drink no wine, no strong drink. Even from his mother's womb he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he will bring back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. With the Spirit and power of Elijah, he will go before him to turn the hearts of fathers towards their children and the disobedient back to the wisdom that the virtuous have, preparing for the Lord a people fit for him.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel who stand in God's presence, and I have been sent to speak to you and bring you this good news. Listen! Since you have not believed my words, which will come true at their appointed time, you will be silenced and have no power of speech until this has happened.' Meanwhile the people were waiting from Zechariah and were surprised that he stayed in the sanctuary so long. When he came out he could not speak to them, and they realised that he had received a vision in the sanctuary. But he could only make signs to them, and remained dumb.

When his time of service came to an end he returned home. Some time later his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept to herself. 'The Lord has done this for me,' she said 'now that it has pleased him to take away the humiliation I suffered among men.'

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: **The almighty Father's generosity is immeasurable. In due time, he will grant the aspirations of his people.**

Reader: That the Church, the people of God, imbued by the Holy Spirit, may attain the proper disposition for the birth of the Saviour this Christmas,

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That our government officials continue to uphold the dignity of every person, exhausting their means to promote peace and seek the well-being of their constituents,

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That parents may welcome children with love and responsibility and help them to discover the will of God for them.

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the Lord may bless married couples who like Zechariah and Elizabeth long for children to love and care for.

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have gone ahead of us may find peace and eternal happiness sharing in the joy of the Master's table,

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to Our Lady.**

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: **Fill us with your Spirit, Lord, so that we may welcome our Saviour with joy and gladness and may be true to you now and forever.**

Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Vigil Friday/Saturday - 19/20 December

FIFTH NOVENA MASS

Friday 19th December 7.00pm & Saturday 20th December 4.30am

Introduction

Good Morning and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill - Schofields.

Today we celebrate what used to be known as the “Golden Mass” which in Advent commemorates the Annunciation and the actual start of the earthly life of Jesus, God-made-man. Let us pray in this Eucharist that our devotion to Mary may proceed from true faith, by which we are led to know the excellence of the Mother of God and are moved to filial love toward her and to the imitation of her virtues.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by

7.00pm:

4.30am:

Please stand and join in our entrance hymn

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. See vv. 7, 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come,

Key of David,

opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom:

free the prisoners of darkness!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You are to conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you', the angel answered, 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: Let us pray to the Father that we may be able to follow the example of Mary, who is humble, full of faith, and always ready to do the Lord's will.

Reader: That the Holy Father, the bishops, priests, and deacons guide and assist the faithful in giving witness to their faith in Christ by their exemplary lives and inspiring words.

We pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who work in government see their office as a public trust by which they serve their constituents, rather than abusing it for personal gain.

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: May consecrated men and women, by living faithfully their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, be true witnesses of the priority of God in life.

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Like Mary, may young people be firm in their faith, generous in their love, and steadfast in their hope.

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That when we face the difficulties of life we may rely, not on our own strength, but on the power, presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We pray.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to Our Lady.**

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: Father, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. May we follow her example in preparing for the coming of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

All: Amen.

Vigil Saturday/Sunday - 20/21 December

SIXTH NOVENA MASS

Saturday 20th December 7.00pm & Sunday 21st December 4.30am

Introduction:

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

Joseph is needed to give legal paternity to the Child and to provide home and protection to Mary and Jesus. Though Joseph at first is distressed by the condition of his betrothed, he too agrees when the angel enlightens him on the mystery that surrounds Mary's pregnancy.

The Celebrant for today's Mass is:

Sat 7:00pm:

Sunday Dawn Mass 4.30am:

Please stand and join in our entrance hymn

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Creed is said.

GENERAL INTERCESSION

Priest: In Jesus who is Emmanuel: “God-with-us” the loving mercy of the Father is made visible and tangible. With confidence, we pray:

Reader: That in times of difficulty and trial for our country, our religious and political leaders may stand firm in their reliance on God who watches over his people,

We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That fathers of families may be like St. Joseph who is just, concerned for Mary, and open to God’s will.

We Pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That young people may learn from the example of Mary and Joseph, who make Jesus the centre of their lives.

We Pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That all those away from home and family this Christmas may be comforted by the prayers and affection of their loved ones and by the goodwill of their neighbours.

We Pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all people during times of extreme weather conditions, for those on farms and in rural areas deprived of harvests and livestock, livelihood and hope.

We Pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those who have died, in particular those mentioned in our parish bulletin. May God's merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We Pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for 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 center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

Priest: **God our Father, hear the prayers of your people. As we await with eager longing the coming of your Son, fill us with peace and joy in your presence.**

Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Vigil Sunday/Monday - 21/22 December

SEVENTH NOVENA MASS

Sunday 21th December 7.00pm & Monday 22nd December 4.30am

Introduction

Good Morning/ Good evening and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

Father, as our Advent pilgrimage draws to a close, we relight the candles of hope, peace, and joy. And we light the candle of love. Grant us the courage to share your love: love for life and creation, love for sinners and saints, love for the poor and the little ones. We thank you for the hope your Son gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy your Spirit pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

7.00pm:

4.30am:

Please stand and join in our entrance hymn

First Reading

1 Samuel 1:24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah gave thanks for the birth of Samuel

When Hannah had weaned Samuel, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

1 Sm 2:1. 4-8. R. v.1

(R.) My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1. My heart exults in the Lord,
I find my strength in my God;
my mouth laughs at my enemies
as I rejoice in your saving help. (R.)
2. The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the weak are clothed with strength.
Those with plenty must labour for bread,
but the hungry need work no more.
The childless wife has children now
but the fruitful wife bears no more. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who gives life and death,
he brings men to the grave and back;
it is the Lord who gives poverty and riches.
He brings men low and raises them on high. (R.)
4. He lifts up the lowly from the dust,
from the dung heap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
to give him a glorious throne.
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
on them he has set the world. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come,
King of all nations,

source of your Church's unity and faith:
save all people, your own creation!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:46-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The Almighty has done great things for me.

Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

'He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: **In Jesus who is Emmanuel: "God-with-us" the loving mercy
of the Father is made visible and tangible.**

Reader: That in times of difficulty and trial for our country, our religious
and political leaders may stand firm in their reliance on God who watches over
his people,

We pray.

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

Reader: That fathers of families may be like St. Joseph who is just, concerned for Mary, and open to God's will,

We pray.

All: R - Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That young people may learn from the example of Mary and Joseph, who make Jesus the centre of their lives,

We pray.

All: R - Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That as Christmas draws near, we may experience the peace, comfort, and joy that Jesus, our Saviour and Emmanuel, brings, we pray

We pray.

All: R - Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader: Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to
Our Lady.**

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: God our Father, hear the prayers of your people. As we await with eager longing the coming of your Son, fill us with peace and joy in your presence.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Vigil Monday/Tuesday - 22/23 December

EIGHTH NOVENA MASS

Monday 22nd December 7.00pm & Tuesday 23rd December 4.30am

Introduction

Good Morning and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

In order to maintain a prayerful atmosphere during our celebration of the Eucharist, we request that all mobile phones be turned off or put on silent.

Today's Gospel tells the birth and the naming of John. Relatives and neighbours assume that the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth will be named after the father. Instead, in obedience to God's will, the child is given the name "Yohanan" or John, which means "the Lord is gracious." As we come closer toward celebrating the birth of the Saviour, may we experience the Lord's graciousness in our lives.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

7.00pm:

4.30am:

Please stand and join in our entrance hymn

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4. 23-24

A reading from the prophet Malachi

I shall send you the prophet Elijah as a sign that the day of the Lord is near.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Know that I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before my day comes, that great and terrible day. He shall turn the hearts of fathers towards their children and the hearts of the children towards their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a curse.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. Lk 21:28

(R.) Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray.

He guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

3. His ways are faithfulness and love

for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come,

King of all nations,

source of your Church's unity and faith:

save all people, your own creation!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:57-66

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The birth of John the Baptist.

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up, 'No,' she said, 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name,' and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: Zechariah called his son "John," meaning "God is gracious."
Trusting in God's graciousness and generosity, we pray.

Reader: That Church and government leaders may show God's graciousness by their loving and persevering service to God's people.

We pray.

All: R- Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may come to appreciate our Christian names and dignity and live up to our baptismal promises,

We pray.

All: R- Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may become a united and caring community where sorrow is halved and joy is multiplied,

We pray.

All: R- Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That families who gather together at Christmas and the New Year may renew their love, solidarity, and support for one another

We pray.

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

Reader: That the Lord may grant to the souls of our brothers and sisters the reward of eternal life,

We pray.

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

Reader: **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to Our Lady.**

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: **Loving Father, watch over your people. May we strive to please you at all times. This we ask through Jesus your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

All: **Amen.**

Vigil Tuesday/Wednesday - 23/24 December

NINTH AND FINAL NOVENA MASS

**Tuesday 23rd December 7.00pm & Wednesday 24th December
4.30am**

Introduction

Good Morning and welcome to the parish of Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill – Schofields.

As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, we welcome the coming of the Lord. He is the Dayspring who will shine on humanity enveloped in the shadow of sin and death. We stand with the patriarchs, prophets, and kings, with the weak and the sinners, with all humankind, scanning the horizon for signs of our salvation. And now that we see the first streaks of dawn, we rejoice greatly, for our salvation is at hand.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

7.00pm:

4.30am:

Please stand and join us in our entrance hymn

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be a leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant;
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come,
Radiant Dawn,
splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:
shine on those lost in the darkness of death!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:67-79

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

From on high the rising sun will visit us.

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has visited his people, he has come to their rescue
and he has raised up for us a power for salvation
in the House of his servant David,
even as he proclaimed,
by the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient times,
that he would save us from our enemies
and from the hands of all who hate us.
Thus he shows mercy to our ancestors,
thus he remembers his holy covenant,
the oath he swore
to our father Abraham
that he would grant us, free from fear,
to be delivered from the hands of our enemies,
to serve him in holiness and virtue
in his presence, all our days.
And you, little child,
you shall be called Prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord
to prepare the way for him.
To give his people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins;
this by the tender mercy of our God
who from on high will bring the rising Sun to visit us,
to give light to those who live
in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.'

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Priest: The almighty Father is faithful to his promise. With confidence we present to him our needs,

Reader: Banish fear, hatred, anxiety, and attachment to sin from our hearts.

We pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Give strength to the wavering, comfort to the troubled, and joy to all.

We pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Give light, wisdom, and strength to our religious and political leaders.

We pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Rescue those unjustly deprived of liberty and those marginalized and abandoned by society.

We pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Bless our families and loved ones as we are about to celebrate your birth.

We pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer to
Our Lady.

All: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of
salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that joy and feasting might return after
this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to
do what Jesus tell us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, bore our sorrows to bring us, through
the Cross and to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test-and deliver us from
every danger; O glorious and blessed Virgin, Pray for us.

Priest: Faithful God, help us to be strong and patient in our
difficulties. May we never lose hope in your promise. We ask this through
Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.