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

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) – MASS DURING THE NIGHT**

**MIDNIGHT MASS**

**Introduction:**

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

On this most holy night, Jesus the Saviour is born to give joy to the world and to save us from sin. Though almighty and powerful, God strips himself of his glory and makes himself small. This God-become-man is the one we welcome tonight. He is our Emmanuel, our God-with-us.

The Celebrant for tonight’s Mass is:

Please now stand.

# \*THE ADVENT WREATH CEREMONY\*

# *The Advent Candle is brought in procession by rostered parishioners who walk in front of the Celebrant. (Note: This Candle lighting ceremony replaces the Penitential Rite during the Advent Season and Christmas Day)*

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY**

# *At the conclusion of the Entrance hymn, the candle bearer faces the congregation and holds up the candle.*

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the holy spirit be with you all

**All:** And With Your Spirit.

**Priest**: Good **Evening / Morning** and a very warm welcome to this special Christmas Mass.

Let us begin by lighting the Advent candles.

**Commentator**:On this **Christmas Eve / Day**, we light the four Advent candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

The **First Candle** is about Hope.

We speak of **hope** - because God keeps his promise to us.

***The Senior Server lights the first candle.***

The **Second Candle** is about peace.

Jesus is the ‘Prince of Peace’ and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

***The Senior Server lights the second candle.***

The **Third Candle** is about love.

Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

***The Senior Server lights the third candle.***

The **Fourth Candle** is about joy.

The Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the joyful presence of God

***The Senior Server lights the fourth candle.***

**P.T.O**

**Priest:** Behold, the **Christ Candle**, which we light to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

***Family candle bearer to raise the white Christ candle while facing the Assembly***

As the prophets promised so long ago, our God has come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

***The candle is placed in the Wreath and lit by a family member***

**POWERPOINT**

**Celebrant**:

Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us.

May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come**. **Amen**.

***Family walk down the steps, bow and return to seats***

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

#### **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) –**

#### **Mass during the Night**

#### **MASS READINGS**

#### **FIRST READING (Is 62:1-5)**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

About Zion I will not be silent,

about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,

until her integrity shines out like the dawn

and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,

all the kings your glory,

and you will be called by a new name,

one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,

a princely diadem in the hand of your God;

no longer are you to be named ‘Forsaken’,

nor your land ‘Abandoned’,

but you shall be called ‘My Delight’

and your land ‘The Wedded’;

for the Lord takes delight in you

and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,

so will the one who built you wed you,

and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,

so will your God rejoice in you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2)**

***(R) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.***

1. ‘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.)**

#### 2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,

#### who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,

#### who find their joy every day in your name,

#### who make your justice the source of their bliss. (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.)

#### **SECOND READING  (Acts 13:16-17. 22-25)**

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

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

‘Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out.

‘Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, “I have   
 selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my

whole purpose”. To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of

David’s descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John

when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel.

Before John ended his career he said, “I am not the one you imagine me to

be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal”.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:

the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL (Mt 1:1-25)**

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

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

#### Abraham was the father of Isaac,

#### Isaac the father of Jacob,

#### Jacob was 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 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.

#### 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 told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) –**

**MASS DURING THE NIGHT**

**5.30pm, 9.30PM & MIDNIGHT MASS**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** Through his Only Begotten Son, Jesus our ‘Emmanuel,’ let: us present to the Father our hopes, fears, and longings of all humanity. Trusting in his faithfulness and compassion we pray:

**Reader:** That the Church and her leaders may continue to be visible signs of your peace among men and women of goodwill.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That civil and political leaders may imitate your Son who emptied himself of power and glory, sought the weak and the lost, and gave up his life for the salvation of all.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the poor, the sick and infirm, the lonely and homeless, and the sorrowful may find hope and joy with the coming of the Saviour.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our brothers and sisters who cannot be with their families tonight—doctors and nurses in hospitals, migrant workers abroad, soldiers on duty, prisoners in jails—may they all experience the comfort of your presence through the generosity and companionship of other people.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For all people in this time of drought, for those on farms and in rural areas deprived of harvests and livestock, livelihood and hope. May God send rain to water the earth and help for those in need.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who mourn the death of their loved ones may draw comfort from our belief that the departed ones are now with God.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for Christmas.**

**All:** Loving Father help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, tonight we rejoice at the birth of your Son. As we celebrate his humanity, let him be our light, joy, and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**