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

**SUNDAY, 2ND JULY 2023:**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

Today’s Gospel challenges us to make a firm commitment to the Lord. The cost of

following Jesus is high; Jesus claims priority over the most important things in our lives, including family and self. Yet by dying to self and losing everything else for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel, we will surely find life. As Paul puts it, “If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him.”

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**SUNDAY, 2 July 2023:**

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16)**

**A reading from the second book of the Kings**

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there.

After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, ‘Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God.

Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.’

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. ‘What can be done for her?’ he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, ‘Well, she has no son and her husband is old.’ Elisha said,

‘Call her.’

The servant called her and she stood at the door. ‘This time next year,’ Elisha said ‘you will hold a son in your arms.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14)**

***(R.) Forever 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.** 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.** For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;

it is by your favour that our might is exalted:

for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;

our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Rom 6:3-4. 8-11)**

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

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 10:37-42)**

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

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me.

Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me.

Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.

‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**SUNDAY, 2nd July 2023:**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Let us earnestly pray to God our Father that we may continually grow in our commitment to him and to our brothers and sisters.

**Reader:** That the Church, the people of God, may live and preach the Gospel without compromise and never be ashamed of the redeeming cross of Christ,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That missionaries and preachers of the Word may find hospitality and open hearts.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those suffering from injustice, poverty, sickness, and alienation may find generous people who will assist them in their need.

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:** 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:

**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, make us worthy of your love. As we struggle to follow you, stay close to us and protect us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.