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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

In the Gospel story today where Jesus is tempted in the desert, we learn of Jesus' ‘stay’ in the wilderness. In biblical times the wilderness or the desert is often symbolised as a time of searching, even challenge. We imagine a dangerous, lonely place, where people get lost and confused. It is also the place where our God who is ever-faithful and always present speaks into our hearts in the silence and loneliness of our own desert experiences.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

**Saturday Vigil Mass – 5.30pm**

**Sunday – 7.30am**

**Sunday – 9.00am**

**Sunday – 10.30am**

**Sunday – 12.30pm Mass**

**Sunday Evening Mass – 5.30pm**

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Gen 9:8-15)**

A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10)**

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

**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.** Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

**3.** 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.)**

**Second Reading (1 Pt 3:18-22)**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people ‘by water’, and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God’s right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel (Mk 1:12-15)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Like Jesus, who was tempted in the desert, let us ask the Father to accompany us in the various temptations in life so that we will always overcome them.

**Reader:** May we call on the Holy Spirit for strength as we face our temptations to sin and struggle with our habits of wrongdoing, neglect and addiction.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the sight of the rainbow in the heavens continue to be a sign of God’s protective love and mercy.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May Australia Catholics enter into this Time of Lent, offering their prayer and sacrifices as a reparation for the sins committed against children by people of the Church

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the work of Caritas Australia be supported by our giving to Project Compassion, and in this Catholic Year of St Joseph, inspire us to care for all those families and individuals trapped in poverty.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the sick find support from the many professions dedicated to their welfare, so that their anxieties and pain may be reduced.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** May the Lord welcome our departed brothers and sisters into his kingdom where they will behold God face to face, especially remembering all those mentioned in our parish bulletin.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**All:** Loving God, During the sacred season of Lent, bring us closer to you.

Prepare a place in our homes and hearts for silence and solitude, so that we may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Help us to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, remind us of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge our hearts so that we give to those in need and, in doing so,

re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle our love and faith in you.

**Celebrant:** Give us the right disposition, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.