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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**Introduction**

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

In today’s Gospel, we read of national tragedies that occurred in Jesus’ time. Like the contemporaries of our Lord, we are probably driven to ask, “Were the victims more sinful than other people? Did the victims deserve their fate?” Jesus categorically refuses to attribute their misfortune to God, or to his sense of justice. God does only good; he offers only life. If we are to relate sin to any misfortune, it should be to make us realize that we are all sinners in need of conversion. Sin is the greatest misfortune and so we should turn away from it. We should answer Lent’s urgent call for a change of heart.

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering communities with hope and helping those in great need to shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

**(Announce only at the Vigil Saturday 5.30pm Mass)**

During our Mass this morning, we will have the First Scrutiny Rite for our RCIA candidate.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

**Sat 5.30pm Vigil – Fr Dado**

**Sun 7.30am- Monsignor Cezar**

**Sun 9am- Fr. Oliver**

**Sun 10.30am –   Fr. Oliver**

**Sun 12.30pm- Fr. Oliver**

**Sun 5.30pm- Monsignor Cezar**

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

**THIRD Sunday OF LENT - Year C**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### FIRST READING   (Ex 3:1-8. 13-15)

*A reading from the book of Exodus*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. ‘I must go and look at this strange sight,’ Moses said, ‘and see why the bush is not burnt.’ Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. ‘Moses, Moses!’ he said. ‘Here I am’ he answered. ‘Come no nearer’ he said. ‘Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,’ he said ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, ‘I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.’

Then Moses said to God, ‘I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you.” But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?’ And God said to Moses, ‘I Am who I Am. This’ he added ‘is what you must say to the sons of Israel: “The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8)

***R- The Lord is kind and merciful.***

#### 1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,

#### all my being, bless his holy name.

#### My soul give thanks to the Lord

#### and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

#### 2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,

#### who heals every one of your ills,

#### who redeems your life from the grave,

#### who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

#### 3. The Lord does deeds of justice,

#### gives judgement for all who are oppressed.

#### He made known his ways to Moses

#### and his deeds to Israel’s sons. (R.)

#### 4. The Lord is compassion and love,

#### slow to anger and rich in mercy.

#### For as the heavens are high above the earth

#### so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

#### SECOND READING  (1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12)

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PLEASE STAND TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

#### GOSPEL (Lk 13:1-9)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, ‘Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.’

He told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, “Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?” “Sir,” the man replied “leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.”’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — The season of Lent is an urgent call to repent and reunite ourselves to God. Let us humbly pray to the Father that he may help us bear the good fruits of conversion and renewal.

**Reader:** We pray for every member of the Church that during this Lent all will sincerely and humbly repent of their sins.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That instead of looking upon the miseries of others as punishment of God, we may open our hearts and hands to them, ready to share with them what we have.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the uncertainties of the times and the signs of life’s fragility may draw us to the love and compassion of God.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Holy Spirit may stir us to bear fruits of repentance, justice, and love which the Lord expects from us.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular those mention in our parish bulletin and those who died in the Christchurch violence, that God, the Compassionate One, receive them into heaven.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for the season of 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.

**Priest:** Father, we beg you to hear our supplications. May these prayers strengthen us to be faithful in our Lenten observance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In the midst of this darkness, we continue to offer light, in the midst of terror, we keep walking in peace, in the midst of despair, we always hold out hope. God who journeys with us and knows the depths of our sorrow

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.