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

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

Jesus remains the sole foundation of the Church; Peter and those given the power of the keys can be effective only if they are faithful stewards and exercise their pastoral authority according to the example, and in the spirit of the Lord. Let us pray for the Pope and the leaders of the Church. May we all grow in faith and remain devoted disciples of Jesus in the bosom of the Church.

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Social Justice Statement from the Australian bishops, Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse condemns domestic and family violence.  
  
The statement highlights that family and domestic violence affects people of all ages and from all background but predominantly women and children and is a particularly painful and complex reality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.  
  
The document also covers the importance of listening to women and children, the drivers and enablers of violence, supporting respectful relationships, and the importance of respect, dignity and justice, as well as transformation and hope.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Is 22:19-23)**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,

I remove you from your post,

and the same day I call on my servant

Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,

gird him with your sash,

entrust him with your authority;

and he shall be a father

to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David

on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,

should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg

into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory

for his father's house.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8)**

***(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.***

**1.** I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,

you have heard the words of my mouth.

Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**

**2.** I thank you for your faithfulness and love

which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered;

you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**

**3.** The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly

and the haughty he knows from afar.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Rom 11:33-36)**

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

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;

the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 16:13-20)**

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

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’ Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — We now present our petitions to the Father of all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader:** For the Holy Father Pope Francis. For continued strength and wisdom

in listening to the Holy Spirit. May we, by his guidance, be renewed to strengthen our work with the voiceless and marginalised.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For the leaders of our nations. That they may actively promote justice and peace among all nations, in particular to those least among us.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That we may undergo a change of heart and of lifestyle: truly being stewards of creation, loving and caring for our earth rather than exploiting

and abusing it for self-serving ends.

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 the deceased. In particular those searching for a better home. May the consoling heart of Jesus grant them eternal rest.

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.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, we praise you and we give you thanks. You call us to welcome your children who come to our land to better their lives and to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Grant that we may be guided by your Word to abolish the barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

**All:** Amen.