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

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

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

Jesus’ seemingly harsh condemnation of certain religious leaders and their practices tells us that following him entails humble service and not receiving entitlements.

Titles are good as long as they remind us of and lead us to God’s presence.

Do we give more importance to honours rather than service? Are we willing to give up certain privileges for the sake of serving God and our neighbour?

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

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

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Mal 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10)**

A reading from the prophet Malachi

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing.

You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts.

And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 130)**

***(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.***

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud

nor haughty my eyes.

I have not gone after things too great

nor marvels beyond me. **(R.)**

**2.** Truly I have set my soul

in silence and peace.

A weaned child on its mother’s breast,

even so is my soul. **(R.)**

**3.** O Israel, hope in the Lord

both now and for ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (1 Thes 2:7-9. 13)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God’s Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God’s message, you accepted it for what it really is, God’s message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;

you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 23:1-12)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses.

You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

‘You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

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

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — Let us humbly pray to the Father and ask him for the grace to recognize and serve him in our brothers and sisters without counting the cost.

**Reader:** That our Church leaders may continue to be faithful witnesses of God’s kingdom of love, justice, and peace by renouncing worldly entitlements and privileges.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our government officials, particularly those working in the police and judicial system, may consider prisons and jails as sites for rehabilitation and restoration of broken relationships rather than as places of punishment and violence

We pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our government leaders set aside person gains and interest and work together for healing and renewal in our country, we pray

We pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who are subject to public ridicule and those who suffered emotional and physical pain because of racial and religious discrimination

may find comfort and strength through the support and care of their community and their loved ones

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That victims of crime find strength and healing in God through the love and compassion of people around them. May they learn to forgive those who have caused them pain.

We Pray:

**R - Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who have died and who valued that life for them was Christ, may now live fully in him in heaven, 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.**

**All:** God, our Father, bless this parish Mary Immaculate so that we may love you more.

Help the parents to be good examples to the children and our youth to grow in love and strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care. To the sick grant health, to the aged bring serenity and to those in sorrow joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

**Celebrant:** Father, be attentive to our prayers. Help us to reach out to all our brothers and sisters and serve them with faithfulness and love. May our hearts be

open to their suffering and pain so that we may draw closer to your heart.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.