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

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Introduction:**

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

A happy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year to all of you!

The year opens with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Under her maternal care, she gathers us, her children in Jesus Christ. Let us entrust to her our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows.

Today we also celebrate World Day of Prayer for Peace.

May the Saviour of the world who brings God’s peace to his people bless all humanity with the gift of peace.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please now stand and join in our Entrance Hymn.

#### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

#### The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

#### MASS READINGS

#### FIRST READING (Nm 6:22-27)

*A reading from the book of Numbers*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Say this to Aaron and his sons: “This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.”

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2)**

***(R) May God bless us in his mercy.***

#### 1. God, be gracious and bless us

#### and let your face shed its light upon us.

#### So will your ways be known upon earth

#### and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)

#### 2. Let the nations be glad and exult

#### for you rule the world with justice.

#### With fairness you rule the peoples.

#### you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

#### 3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;

#### let all the peoples praise you.

#### May God still give us his blessing

#### till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

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#### SECOND READING  (Gal 4:4-7)

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

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, ‘Abba, Father’, and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

*The Word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Lk 2:16-21)

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

#### The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say.

#### As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

#### When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Father, through the intercession of Mary, that we may incarnate the Gospel values in our lives.

**Reader:** That people of good will may live in peace which the heavenly host proclaimed at your Son’s birth.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That warring nations and groups may be reconciled so that the people may live in tranquillity and harmony.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who work for justice and peace and for the defence of human dignity may themselves experience the beatitude that belongs to peacemakers.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the broken in spirit, mind, and body because of acts of terrorism, fanaticism, and hatred may be healed and comforted.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary may not be mere lip service but be our inspiration to be like her who is faithful, humble, and loving

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For all people in this time of drought, for those on farms and in rural areas deprived of harvests and livestock, livelihood and hope. May God send rain to water the earth and help for those in need.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who mourn the death of their loved ones may draw comfort from our belief that the departed ones are now with God.

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.

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for a new year. Hear the prayer of your people and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, guide us toward lasting peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**