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

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

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

In the Gospel, Jesus declares that we, whose debts God has forgiven, are expected

to be just as generous to others.

By forgiving one another, we do what God does all the time for us. May the Lord touch our hearts hardened by hurt and bitterness.

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

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

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Sir 27:30 – 28:7)**

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,

and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,

who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,

and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,

can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;

who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,

remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8)**

***(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.***

**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.** His wrath will come to an end;

he will not be angry for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins

nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**

**4.** For as the heavens are high above the earth

so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west

so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

**Second Reading (Rom 14:7-9)**

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

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 18:21-35)**

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

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me”, he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?”

And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**Twenty-FOURTH Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Let us humbly pray to the Father that having been forgiven, we in turn must forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.

**Reader:** That the constant call of Pope Francis for people to seek reconciliation

in personal relationships and between nations - will echo in every heart which seeks peace and harmony.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** That each of us will turn away from hate, bear no ill-will against others,

nor hold resentment or anger in our relationships.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** That world leaders respond with wisdom and humility to the ongoing

crisis caused by the evil of terrorism and racism, and may they find ways to stop

the spread of violence and hatred in the world.

*We Pray:*

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

**Reader:** That the sick may experience the Lord’s strength and healing in our

tender, loving care for them.

*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:** That in life and in death we will always belong to the Lord, as we entrust our departed relatives and parishioners into God’s loving hands, especially remembering all those mentioned in our parish bulletin.

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:** Look upon our wounded selves, Lord. Change our hearts of stone to hearts filled with love. Renew our afflicted spirit with your peace, you who live

and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.