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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE**

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, the last before Christmas, invites us to reflect on the annunciation of the Lord’s birth to the Virgin Mary. Because of her openness to

God’s promise, her deep faith, and her willingness to serve, Mar y becomes a model of one who is truly prepared to welcome the Saviour. As St. John Paul II wrote: *“Mary guides us towards Bethlehem. Mary is the Woman of the ‘yes’ who, contrary to Eve, makes the plan of God her own without reservation. Thus she becomes a clear light for our steps and the highest model for our inspiration.”*

The Celebrant for this Mass is

Please join in sing the entrance hymn.

**\*THE ADVENT WREATH** **CEREMONY\***

***The Advent Candle is brought in procession by rostered parishioners who walk in front of the Celebrant. (Note: This Candle lighting ceremony replaces the Penitential Rite during the Advent Season and Christmas Day)***

 **The Fourth Week of Advent**

***At the conclusion of the Entrance hymn, the candle bearer faces the congregation and holds up the candle.***

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the holy spirit be with you all

**All:** And With Your Spirit.

Commentator: Behold our fourth Advent Candle - The Candle of Love

 ***The Candle Bearer holds the candle up high and then place it in the Wreath***

**Priest**: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Priest**: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

 Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it and the Candles of Hope , Peace and Joy again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope, our peace and our joy.

***The Senior Server lights the Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy***

**Priest**: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

***The Candle Bearer lights the Fourth Candle, the Candle of Love***

 Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

**(P.T.O)**

**Priest**: Let us pray:

**All**: **Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen**

***The Candle Bearer return to floor level of Sanctuary, bow and return to seat.***

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16)**

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent’. Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

*The Word of the Lord*

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2)**

***(R.)*** *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

**1.** I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;

through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,

that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

**2.** ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever

and set up your throne through all ages.’ (R.)

**3.** He will say to me: ‘You are my father,

my God, the rock who saves me.’

I will keep my love for him always;

for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

**Second Reading (Rom 16:25-27)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Lk 1:26-38)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Celebrant:** — Let us confidently bring our prayers before God the Father, who is the joy of our souls, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ our Saviour.

**Reader:** May the Church become a source of joy to those who are suffering and commit themselves to defend at all times the dignity and sanctity of human life.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** May world leaders unite to combat all forms of violence and human degradation, implement laws to protect the voiceless members of society, and exert every effort to bring justice and peace.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** May victims of human trafficking, migrants, refugees, and those who suffer from war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty, find hope and healing in Jesus; may they be freed from their bondage and find emotional, physical, and spiritual healing from the communities who welcome them.

We pray:

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

**Reader:** May policemen, law enforcers, those who defend, protect, and care for the victims of injustice and those who educate others and spread their advocacy about human rights violation be free from harm, be filled with hope and joy, and remain committed to their work.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** May those who are unable to afford food and clean water, those who have poor housing and clothing, receive proper care and support from government and religious leaders.

We Pray:

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

**Reader:** May our family members, relatives, and friends who have died experience everlasting joy in the company of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, 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 during Advent.**

**All:** God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Celebrant:** God of joy and mercy, as we wait for the Lord’s coming, look with compassion upon us. Sustain us with your love and care in all travails, even as you assure us of your love and care in all that we do.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.