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

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER & MOTHERS DAY - YEAR C**

**Introduction.**

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

The fourth Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday. In the Gospel, Jesus says that he protects the sheep the Father has given him. He also gives the sheep—his disciples—eternal life.

We celebrate today the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray to the

Lord to send “shepherds of souls” who can lead us to him and who, like him, can give themselves for the good of the flock.

Today is also a special day, we celebrate Mother’s Day. We especially welcome here all mums of all ages. We ask everyone to remember in their prayers today all Mother’s everywhere, that they will receive the support they need to fulfil this command in their daily lives.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by:

Please stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn.

**FOURTH Sunday OF easter - Year C**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### FIRST READING   (Acts 13:14, 43-52)

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans.

For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,

so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.’

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

*The Word of the Lord.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3)

***(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.***

#### 1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

#### Serve the Lord with gladness.

#### Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)

#### 2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.

#### He made us, we belong to him,

#### we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)

#### 3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,

#### eternal his merciful love.

#### He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

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#### SECOND READING  (Apoc 7:9, 14-17)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, ‘These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God’s throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Jn 10:27-30)

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

#### Jesus said:

#### ‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

#### I know them and they follow me.

#### I give them eternal life;

#### they will never be lost

#### and no one will ever steal them from me.

#### The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

#### and no one can steal from the Father.

#### The Father and I are one.’

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

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**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest**: — Let us pray to our loving Father that we may listen to the voice of his Son, the Good Shepherd, who protects us and leads us to the pasture of life and plenty.

**Reader:** — Give the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and missionaries warm and caring hearts that they may prove to be true shepherds of your people.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for our mothers who hold us and feed us, who care for us, and kiss away our pain. May our lives reflect the love they showed us.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** — Make the family a fertile seedbed for vocations to priestly and consecrated life through the spirit of prayer, love, and service that reign among family members.

We pray.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for mothers who face the demand of single motherhood. Grant them strength and wisdom.

We pray.

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for those in our parish who are grieving the loss of their mother. We also pray for all departed mothers and our loves ones in particular those mentioned in our parish bulletin Grant them comfort and hope in the risen and ascended Lord.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Together we now pray our parish community prayer for Mothers Day:

**All:** O Loving Lord, We thank you for the gift of Motherhood.

May those blessed with children be granted the gifts of courage, perseverance and understanding.

 May they enjoy good health and spiritual well being

 to enable them to care for their families.

 May they face each new day with faith and hope

 in your abiding love.

 May they be showered with your blessings

 as they work tirelessly to support their families.

 Give them strength to model compassion and forgiveness.

 Bind all families in the bonds of peace and safety

 so that mothers themselves will feel nurtured by love.

**Priest:** Loving Father, your Son died and rose again that he might give us eternal life. Help us to listen to his voice, so that we may make of our lives an acceptable offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.