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

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL - YEAR C**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE.**

**Introduction:**

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

Peter and Paul didn’t always see eye to eye in this life. Paul tells us in Galatians how he stood up to Peter and even rebuked him for what he perceived as hypocrisy or double standards. Paul certainly fought many good fights during his years of mission and witnessing to the Good News of God’s grace. We know a little about the later struggles of Peter but have hints through traditions about his martyrdom.

Today we remember both for their unwavering devotion to their Lord and learn how each is an example to us of courage, conviction and absolute trust in the power of God to be with them in every circumstance.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by

Please stand and join In singing the entrance hymn.

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL - Year C**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**   **(Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11)**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. ‘Get up!’ he said ‘Hurry!’ – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, ‘Put on your belt and sandals.’ After he had done this, the angel next said, ‘Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.’ Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. ‘Now I know it is all true,’ he said. ‘The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.’

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33:2-9. R. v.5**

***(R.) The Lord set me free from all my fears.***

1. I will bless the Lord at all times

his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad (R.)

2. Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;

from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)

3. Look towards him and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him

and rescued his from all his distress. (R.)

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped

around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

He is happy who seeks refuge in him. (R.)

**SECOND READING  2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

***A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy***

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;

the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-19**

**(Proclaimed by Celebrating Priest)**

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

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said, ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**SAINTS PETER AND PAUL - YEAR C**

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**Priest:** Dear brothers and sisters, gathered as one to celebrate the good things we have received from our God, let us ask him to prompt in us

prayers that are worthy of his hearing.

**Reader:** For Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, deacons, religious and lay leaders continually strive to grow in holiness in Christ, and become role models of communion and prayer in each family.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who hold public office and those who assist them in promoting the common good,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who travel by sea, land or air, for captives and all held in prison,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For all of us gathered in this sacred place by faith and devotion

and by love and reverence for God,

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular those mentioned in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

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:** May the petitions of your Church be pleasing in your sight, O Lord,

so that we may receive from your mercy what we cannot ask out of confidence in our own merits Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.