

BIDDING PRAYERS: 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Celebrant: As we continue our preparations for the birth of our Saviour, let us open our hearts in prayer to our Heavenly Father and with confidence seek His ever-generous assistance.

Reader: We pray for the gift of faith; may we be inspired by the example of St Joseph who believed when it was not easy to believe and who trusted in God. May many more people be granted the gift of trusting the will of God in their lives. Lord hear us **R. Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: We pray for all expectant mothers; may they recognise in Mary, the mother of Jesus someone who shares in this time of patient waiting and may their babies bring joy and wonder into our world
Lord hear us **R. Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: As we await the birth of Jesus, we pray for all unborn children; may the Lord, who loves us into existence, enlighten the minds and hearts of all people with awareness and renewed conviction that all human life is sacred and created in the image and likeness of God.
Lord hear us **R. Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: We pray that we ourselves and our families; that amidst the incidentals of this season we do not forget the essentials: that God breaks through from Heaven to Earth to share in our lives that we might share in His.
Lord hear us **R. Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: We pray for the unemployed, the unwaged and all those for whom this time of year brings anxiety rather than happiness; may they benefit from the generosity of others and may the peace of Christ dwell in a special way with them and with their families.
Lord hear us **R. Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: Let us remember especially today all those for whom this Mass is offered.
And also, all those who have died recently, especially Francis Parkinson and David Hattermore. may they rest in peace and rise in glory.
Lord hear us **R. Lord, graciously hear us**

Reader: Let us pray for our own private intentions; (pause). We ask Mary, our Mother, to join with us in our prayers: Hail Mary ...

Celebrant: May our lives as well as our words give you glory, Almighty Father, as we make these and all our prayers. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.