

BIDDING PRAYERS:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; *GAUDETE SUNDAY*

- Priest:** Let us turn in prayer and offer our intentions to our heavenly Father who desires to grant joy to all his children.
- Reader:** For the Church; we have been anointed to proclaim good news to the poor and bind up hearts that are broken. May we and the whole family of God be recognised in our prophetic words and actions.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For Pope Francis; may the blessing he imparts today upon the crib figure of the Baby Jesus bring justice, peace and joy into the homes of all those who display the Christ Child in our midst.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** We pray for the Holy Land, the place where the Word was made flesh; may the Peace of God enter the hearts and minds of all people who dwell there, bringing harmony between the different communities and races.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** We pray for those who are suffering loneliness or the pain of bereavement; May the Spirit of love bind up their broken hearts and may we all watch out attentively so that we may recognise their need of our care and support.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For the gift of joy; may we grow in an ever deeper understanding that true fulfilment lies, not in earthly pleasures, but is to be found by living in a loving relationship with the One who can help us be the people he formed us to be.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** That this season may bring healing; may we have the courage to come to the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent that we may be healed and created anew to live in joy.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** Let us remember especially today Elizabeth Prescott, Mary & Herbert Jackson, Jim & Joan Hankinson and the Parish for whom our Masses are offered this weekend. And also, all the faithful departed, especially those who have died recently, may they be raised up on the last day.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** Let us pray for our own private intentions; (pause). We ask Mary, our Mother, to join her prayers to ours: **Hail Mary ...**
- Priest:** Loving Lord, we ask you to hear our prayers and graciously grant them as we offer them now upon your altar, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**