

BIDDING PRAYERS: The Nativity of the Lord 2023

- Priest:** With confidence and joy, let us offer our prayers to the Father who in His great love for us sends His Son to bring us salvation.
- Reader:** For the Church; that the people of God throughout the world, that, shining as a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, it may herald for all peoples the dawn of God's saving love.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For Pope Francis; may he continue to inspire us with his leadership and his witness to the presence of Christ in the weakest and the poorest of our society.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For the world; may lands made desolate by war, recognise in the Saviour's birth the marriage of heaven and earth, the rebuilding of justice and peace. We remember in a special way the Holy Land, the place where the Word was made flesh.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For families; may the coming of Christ this Christmas enter the school of our family life explaining to us all, and especially our children the peace, love and joy which He brings into our homes and our lives.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For those who feel forsaken or abandoned; that Christians may offer the loving care and concern that bears witness to God's abiding presence with them.
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** For our Parish; may our community and our homes be recognised by our love for one another and our outreach to the unloved as we proclaim that God is Emmanuel, "*God-is-with-us*".
Lord hear usLord graciously hear us
- Reader:** Let us remember all the faithful departed, especially any members of our families or friends who have died in past year; may they rest in the peace of God's presence, and we may be consoled in our grief as we mourn for them.
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:** Father, we give you thanks for sending your own Son to bring us peace and joy. Hear our prayers on this Christmas night / day and enable us to celebrate your Son's birth with joyful and prayerful hearts.
We make all our prayers through Christ Our Lord, Amen.