**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us turn to our Heavenly Father with our prayers and petitions:

1. For Pope Francis and the Church throughout the world that all will be blessed as they continue their mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth. **Lord, hear us.**
2. We pray for the leaders of all nations and all faiths that they may seek ways of truth and light and the healing of the divisions and conflicts which spread their darkness over all the world. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For all who have lost heart or whose faith as grown weary, that their love of Christ will be renewed as they prepare to celebrate his birth. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For those in prison or those imprisoned by addiction or conscience; may they turn to your in their every need. Help them rely on Your assistance, grace and mercy. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For all who are overwhelmed by the pressures and expectations associated with Christmas preparations. May the love of God be born again in their hearts bringing new energy, enthusiasm, peace and calm. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For the sick, the suffering, the homeless and the hungry, that we may always recognise the Christ who lives in them and share with them the gifts that God has given to us. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For our beloved dead this Advent. May they see their redeemer face-to-face and enjoy the vision of God forever. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** God our Father, you have made us your sons and daughters in Jesus Christ. Help us to live by that truth as we await his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**