**First Sunday of Advent**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:**

God our Father, you have given us the grace of looking forward to the coming of your Son. We pray for our needs and those of the world at the beginning of the Advent Season.

1. We pray for Pope Francis, our bishop Tom, our priests and religious and everyone involved in the ministry and mission of the Church. May they receive the grace necessary to carry out their task with courage and commitment. **Lord, hear us.**
2. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may be our guide during the Advent season and may its celebration bring a blessing on all our families. **Lord, hear us.**
3. As we prepare for the coming of the Christ-child, we pray for peace in the world and we remember especially all people who are suffering from the effects of war, famine and disease. **Lord, hear us.**
4. We pray for vocations. May the Holy Spirit whom we received at Baptism touch the hearts of many young people to offer themselves in priesthood, religious life and other forms of service. **Lord, hear us.**
5. We pray for the sick in our parish community and throughout the world. When they are afraid, give them courage, when afflicted give them patience and when alone assure them of the support of all who care and pray for them. **Lord, hear us.**
6. We pray for all our dead, especially........ We remember all who died recently, all whose anniversaries occur at this time and all deceased family members and parishioners. May they enjoy eternal rest and happiness in heaven. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:**

Lord, these are our prayers which we bring to you with confidence. We join them also with all the unspoken prayers of our minds and hearts as we ask Mary the mother of Jesus who was central to the first Advent, to pray on our behalf as we say together, Hail Mary.......