

PRIEST: Lord God, as today we begin our journey through Advent to the birth of your Son, the light of our world, we pray that you will help us to grow in our love for you and for each other.

READER: We pray for the Pope's intention for the month of December, that catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God, may be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We pray that this season of Advent will be an occasion for deeper personal encounter with Jesus Christ; also that in this season of Advent, we will show special concern for the poor, the sick, the grieving, and those in need.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We have each been called to stand erect with heads held high, always ready to greet our Master and God when he comes. May we help each other to grow in the faith that our liberation is close at hand and receive it in love and joy. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: In our longing to see you, we pray for refugees and migrants who are escaping from violence, bloodshed and poverty. Grant eternal life to all those who have died in their search for security and a new home. We especially remember the men, women and children who died in the Channel this week. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: In our longing to see you, we pray for ourselves as we start our Advent journey towards Christmas. May our loving Lord be our light, our hope, our love, our beginning and our end. May we support each other as we travel towards Bethlehem.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We remember those who have died recently especially, Kathleen Curley, Tracey Everitt, Renate Lehn, Kathleen Josephine McCabe, Stephen Cassidy, Sister Carmel and Ken Bolton. We also remember those with anniversaries at this time especially, Alan Leslie Bibby, Charlie Jones, Bridget Mary Cronin, Eileen Marie Kenny, Margaret French, Kevin William Geary, Gertrude Ann Horsburgh, John Alfred Peace, Patricia Bridget Banks, Michael Murphy, Zofia Lozinski, Catherine Newman, David Barrett and all with anniversaries at this time.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We remember all who are sick, those in hospital and those who are housebound. We remember especially the sick of our own Parish, William Moran, Kath Reidy, Hughie Quinn, John White, Father Fred Sheldon, Dan Doyle, Damian Poole, Kath Clark, Angela and Tony Duffy, Philomena Gallagher, Ken and Doreen Shirley, Chris Jena, Lena Gallagher, Danny Meadows, John Kavanagh, Peter Kavanagh, Kevin McDaid, James Brown, John McCarthy, Sandra Evans, Christopher Edmund Poole, Noreen O'Connor, Philip Saunders, Anne O'Grady, Catherine Walton Molly Saunders, Gillian Jones, and Diane Burgess and our families wherever they may be.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

Let us ask Mary the Mother of the Lord to pray with us: Hail Mary...Now let us pray for a few moments in silence for our own needs and intentions and for those intentions placed in the prayer box.

PRIEST: Almighty and ever-living God, we give thanks for all the graces that you bless us with. May we use wisely all your gifts as true witnesses to your Love; and be filled with your spirit as we await the Day of the Lord we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.