**First Sunday of Advent**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we lift our souls to the Lord, we trust that the Lord will ‘*make us know his ways*.’

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that the Lord will grant him health and strength to continue to lead the Church in word and in deed. **Lord, hear us.**
2. That in the busyness of the Christmas season we receive the perfect gift of Christ’s peace through moments of prayer and reflection. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For peace: as the Lord makes us ‘*love one another and the whole human race*’, we pray that the Spirit will cultivate the conditions necessary for peace in our world. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For vocations to priesthood and religious life: may the Holy Spirit confirm the ‘hearts in holiness’ of those discerning God’s call to priesthood and religious life.
5. For people trying to rebuild their lives after the experience of abuse or violence and the betrayal of trust, that they may know the intimate love of God, on whom they can rely. **Lord, hear us.**
6. As we await the second coming of the Son of Man, may our hope bring freedom of heart and integrity of life to followers of Christ.
7. For those whose minds and hearts are burdened with the ‘cares of life’. Calm their anxiety; may they find hope through a growing awareness of God’s unconditional love for each one of us. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For those who are sick and in need, those who feel forgotten in their hour of need. Bring them the light of hope in moments of despair. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Gracious God, your ‘*ways are faithfulness and love*’. We place our prayers before you, trusting that you will hear and answer them, through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**