**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** Trusting that God’s ‘*face shines upon us*’, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. For Bishop Tom and the priests of our Diocese: strengthened in prayer and inspired by God’s word, may they feed [God’s] flock ‘*with the power of the Lord*’. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For those who care for parents and elderly relatives: may they receive the supports and services necessary to maintain their loved ones independence and quality of life. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For those who find Christmas a difficult time: those overwhelmed by the expectations of others, those struggling to makes ends meet, those who are vulnerable or at risk. May they be comforted by God’s grace working through others. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For expectant parents: fill their lives with expectant joy. Bless them with confidence in their ability to be parents. May they experience the help they need to be wise and caring parents. **Lord, hear us.**
5. As Elizabeth welcomed Mary into her home with joy, we pray for a renewed spirit of hospitality in our communities where the stranger is welcomed and offered companionship and refuge. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For those who are travelling home to be with loved ones for Christmas. Surround them with your loving care and protect them from every danger. **Lord, hear us.**
7. We pray for a spirit of reconciliation and healing in our world of conflict. May we break the spiral of revenge and retaliation and create the conditions for lasting peace. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For those who have died: bring them to the fullness of life in heaven. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, as you ‘come to our help’, we pray that your will be done in and through us. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**