Prayers of the Faithful for CHRISTMAS DAY 2023

Celebrant

Today we celebrate the fact that Christ was born for us, in a stable in Bethlehem. It's a time of great rejoicing for us all. The promised Saviour has arrived and we offer our prayers to Him.

Response: Lord graciously hear us

1. We pray for our Holy Catholic Church, Pope Francis, Bishop Marcus, Fr Kieron. Baby Jesus in the manger reminds us to pray for the vulnerable in our church, the marginalised, the neglected, the lonely. **Lord hear us.**

2. As we focus on Christ's birth we pray for the Christians in Gaza and the Holy Land. They are suffering fear, discrimination along with death and destruction of their homes. We pray for a resolution of all the conflict in those countries. **Lord hear us.**

3. For mother's giving birth in difficult places, for mothers having difficult births, for mothers whose babies die as they are born, we ask for help and comfort. **Lord hear us.**

4. We pray for those who are sick, everywhere in the world and those who care for them. Many people will be having a worrying Christmas due to illness, some will be separated from their families. We ask for healing and consolation for them. **Lord hear us.**

5. We pray for those who have died in our parish and those who have their anniversaries now. We ask for comfort for those whose relatives die over the Christmas period. We pray for all those who will, this year, have an empty space in their families causing them sadness. **Lord hear our prayer**

Let us now spend a few silent moments brining to God our own special intentions.

We offer Mary's special prayer to give thanks and celebrate with joy the birth of her Son, Jesus Christ. **Hail Mary**

Celebrant

Let us pray for all our fellow humans in this world so troubled by war and conflict that we may all come together in the love of God at this time of God demonstrating His ultimate love for us.