**Bidding Prayers – 4th Sunday of Lent**

**18/19 March 2023 – Year A**

**Priest**

Lord, you truly are the light of the world. Stay close to us this Lent as we prepare for your ultimate sacrifice. Hear our prayers we bring before you.

**Reader**

We pray for Pope Francis as he reminds us all Christians - priests, religious, and laypeople - are called to be missionary disciples. May all our leaders carry out their duties with humility and true concern for their people. ***Pause*** ... Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

As the UK faces a fresh wave of strikes, we pray that the government and unions can work together to end industrial action. ***Pause*** ... Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those that are currently grieving and feeling bereft, and for all those who are remembering anniversaries which occur at this time. May the Holy Spirit provide comfort to their weary hearts. ***Pause*** ... Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

As we draw closer to Holy Week, we pray to find silence and solace in the coming weeks to remember individuals and families that are walking their own Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows. ***Pause*** ... Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our parish that it may continue to grow as a ‘**Parish on a hilltop**,’ reaching out to all. ***Pause*** ... Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

We bring our own prayers to our heavenly Father, in the silence of our hearts …

**PLEASE TAKE A LONG PAUSE**

Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

This Mothering Sunday, we remember our mother the Church, and pray for all Mothers that are the centrepiece of family life. We give thanks for all mothers that have bestowed their love, care, and attention on us and shown us the first example of unconditional love and we say together: **Hail Mary…**

**Priest**

Loving Lord, we are so grateful and thankful for all you have done for us. We will always place you at the centre of our hearts as we ask these prayers in your name, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns for ever and ever, **Amen.**