

Bidding Prayers – Epiphany 5th and 6th Jan 2019 – Year C

Priest

God's power and glory are revealed to us and to all people. We now come before God, conscious of our own need of God's grace and strength.

Reader

Let us pray that the Church may be an ever-present manifestation of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to people everywhere. We ask that ***The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness*** and that the Church may point the way. **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

Let us pray for the leaders and governors of all nations: may they protect the vulnerable and have the grace to work for true justice ***For he shall save the poor when they cry.*** **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray for persecuted Christians: that the reign of the Prince of Peace may extend over all the earth and all may now share in the same inheritance. **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray for the peace of our own country: may we welcome the stranger, give help to the poor and strive to ensure that everyone's rights and dignity may be respected as we, like the wise men when they saw the baby Jesus, are ***filled with delight*** and in our actions we ***do him homage.*** **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray for families who are in trouble through lack of employment or decent housing, for families where there are conflicts and poor relationships, that they may be helped by others who see their needs. **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

Let us pray for Catholic Education and particularly the community of Holy Innocents' School as children and teachers return this week. We ask that children are motivated to learn through the work of the teachers, support staff and governors. **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray for all those who have returned to work this week, and those who are unable to because of redundancy or no work opportunities. Help us all to see your will, Father, in all we do so that we retain dignity and faith whatever our circumstances. **Pause.** Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray in silence for our own intentions. ...

LONG PAUSE

Pause. Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We ask Mary who, with Joseph welcomed the wise men in proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, to pray for us: **Hail Mary, full of grace...**

Priest

Heavenly Father, who sent your Son Jesus Christ to bring your message of salvation to the world, we offer these prayers in your name, O loving and generous God, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**