PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL **4th Sunday of Advent**

PRIEST: In the trust that all things are possible with God
we turn to the Father with our prayers:

READER: **For Pope Leo, our bishops, priests and deacons, that they may continue to guide us and lead us in the ways of holiness.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy...

READER: **For our world, that government bodies may safeguard the rights and dignity of every person, from conception to death, through the laws they enact and the policies they develop.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy...

READER: **For those who find Christmas a time of difficulty rather than joy, especially children and those who are vulnerable or at risk, that they may be comforted by God's grace working through others.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy...

READER: **For all pregnant women, especially those experiencing difficulties, that they may find strength through prayers to our Blessed Mother.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy...

READER: **For our own community of faith, that we may accept the challenge to model our lives on the life of Christ, in response to his call to lead lives of holiness.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy...

READER: **For all who are sick or suffering, lonely or housebound, that they will draw hope from the coming of the Christ-child.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy...

PRIEST: God of everlasting love,
we ask you to answer our prayers
and pray that only your will
be done in and through us.
We ask this in his name, Christ Jesus, our Lord.