

## 20 DECEMBER 2020

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, we reflect on Mary, his Mother, who played a significant role in preparing the way for Jesus. Mary's faith and obedience and acceptance of God's plan made it possible for Jesus to be born as one among us, fully human and fully divine. At this Eucharist, let us pray that like Mary, we may be a people of faith, responding to God's plan with willingness and obedience.

#### **ADVENT WREATH:**

We light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation by bringing gifts for the poor and needy.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS:**

The first reading tells us that King David's kingdom "*shall endure forever*". It is from David's lineage that the Saviour of the World will be born. In the Gospel, the Lord is with us and the Saviour is being born among us. The Psalm invites us to sing "*forever, of the goodness of the Lord*". St. Paul reminds us that it is God who strengthens us. Like Mary, we must respond with willingness and openness to God's continuous Annunciations to us.

**FIRST READING:** 2 Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 89:2-3,4-5,27,29

**SECOND READING:** Rm 16:25-27

**GOSPEL:** Lk 1:26-38

#### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, as we await the birth of our Savior, we humbly place our prayers before You seeking, that like Mary, we may be blessed with faith and obedience to accept Your plan for our lives.

**Our response is: Abba Father, hear our prayer**

For Pope Francis, bishops, clergy and religious, that like Mary, they may be instrumental in preparing the way for Jesus; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For the leaders of the Church and the world leaders, that they may focus their attention on the needs of the poor and the neglected, the homeless and the suffering, the aged and the helpless; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For our Youth and children, that they may follow Mary's example of faith and obedience and be open to God's plan for their lives; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For all of us gathered here, that, as we await the birth of Jesus, we may joyfully prepare our hearts for his coming through prayer, service and generosity towards others; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world to redeem us and bring us the new life of salvation: Hear our prayers we humbly placed before you, that we might one day enjoy the fullness of life with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Commission for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay*