



**11 December 2022**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**



### **INTRODUCTION:**

The readings of today invite us to be hopeful amid difficult situations. But how can we be hopeful in the midst of suffering, especially when it is prolonged? Those who are able to experience an inner peace and joy even in the midst of suffering, understand that God works even when He appears silent, and believe that He will raise them from their present turmoil. People who do not understand this never find joy as they have lost hope!

### **READINGS:**

First Reading : Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 146: 7, 8-9a, 10  
Second Reading : James 5:7-10  
Gospel : Mathew 11: 2-11

### **UNIVERSAL PRAYER:**

**CELEBRANT:** With hope and complete confidence in the loving providence of God our Father, we humbly place before Him our petitions, praying that He will hear and answer us.

Our response is: *Hear us O Lord, hear our prayer O Lord*

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Religious – that like the prophets of old, they may lead the people in faith to recognise the working of God, even in the midst of seemingly hopeless situations ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For world leaders – that they may work selflessly to empower their citizens by providing equal opportunities, especially to those less fortunate ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For those who have given up and lost the desire to live because of serious illnesses, financial crisis, unemployment, or various other reasons – that they may be renewed in hope through those who reach out to them ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For all families – that they may experience the joy of living that comes from spending quality time with each other and also coming together in prayer ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

For our personal intentions and for those who have asked us to pray for them, we pray in silence ...*(longer silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord.

**CELEBRANT:** As we prepare, with joyful anticipation, to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we place all our hope in You, our loving Father, knowing you will hear and answer our prayer through Christ our Lord ... Amen.