



24 DECEMBER 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -B



Introduction: As we inch closer to Christmas, we are presented with God's promise to David and Mary's willingness to become an instrument of God's plan, despite uncertainties and potential challenges. Let us then approach God with a heart willing to accept and participate in His divine plan, embodying the spirit of Advent in our willingness to listen, trust, and respond.

Readings:

Reading I:	2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29
Reading II:	Rom 16: 25-27
Gospel:	Lk 1: 26-38

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Just as Mary faithfully embraced her role in God's plan of salvation, we too are invited to trust that our prayers are heard and that, in God's time, they will be answered for nothing is impossible for God. **Our response is: O LORD, HEAR US WE PRAY**

That the Holy Father, the Bishops, Clergy, Religious and the Lay Faithful may fulfil their responsibilities as Christ bearers like Mary, in a world struggling with sin, selfishness and revenge... we pray... **R/**

That the leaders of nations may work towards peace and reconciliation and the well-being of all people entrusted to their care... we pray... **R/**

That like Mary, we may always be ready to cooperate with God's plan of repairing and renewing our relationship with Him which was destroyed by sin... we pray... **R/**

That those who are barren may be blessed with the ability to become life-givers through adoption and those who are expecting may be protected and kept safe from harm... we pray... **R/**

That the season of Christmas may be a time for peace, for cessation of violence, for healing of physical wounds and emotional scars as we welcome the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace... we pray... **R/**

That God may now listen to the prayers we make from the depth of our hearts... (*Pause for 7 secs*)... we pray to the Lord... **R/**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, we thank You for listening to the prayers we make with faith in You and Your Son Jesus who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.