**Bidding Prayers - Second Sunday in Advent 5 December 2021 - Bible Sunday**

**Father** Almighty God, during this Second Week in Advent, give us the faith of John the Baptist, making us strong enough to believe, even in a desert, that you and your kingdom are no further from us than our hands. Make our hearts strong like his, and give us the courage to face the challenges of life.

 **Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.**

**Reader** We pray for Pope Francis, his Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Deacons and all who have devoted their lives to serve Our Heavenly Father. Give them the strength to carry out their work, in reaching into the lives of their parishioners.

**Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.**

**Reader** We pray for the homeless trying to survive on the streets in this cold weather. Help them to seek shelter, warmth and food from the many facilities available to them, and eventually, to find more permanent and secure shelter.

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

**Reader** We pray for those suffering from Covid, especially the new strain, Omicron. May the individuals concerned, make a comfortably strong and full recovery.

 **Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.**

**Reader** We pray forthose who are suffering, physically, spiritually or emotionally, that they may find our Lord, beside them in these hard and painful times.

 **Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.**

**Reader** We pray for all who have died, and the families and friends who grieve for them. **Eternal rest give unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.**

**Reader** We pray to our mother Mary as we say, Hail Mary full of grace . . .

**Father** Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.