3rd Advent Year A December 11th – Gaudete Sunday

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Silence after the petition is read is important. This silence gives people tie to pray.

Read the petition.

Be silent.

Say or sing the response.

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Welcome! Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – a day when our celebration is marked with great joy, for the Lord is near. Let us remember our friends, our family, our neighbours and our communities today, and bring them to our prayer as we pray this liturgy together. Let us prepare with a moment of silence. **(20 … seconds - stay at microphone).** I warmly welcome you to this community of, ………………………… (parish name). Welcome. Let us stand and sing.

***NOTE: a different response to the petition is offered.*** (Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

***If you use this response please ensure your Assembly knows how to respond.***

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that the blind and the lame, the sick, the deaf and the poor are always made welcome in the Church.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha **All:** Come Lord Jesus.

**For leaders of nations –** that all leaders of nations pay heed to the need to act, in order to avert the negative impacts of global warming and climate change.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha All: Come Lord Jesus.

**For people in Church and community who speak with a prophetic voice –** that their message be well formed, prudent, just, relevant to our time, and that it be heard and heeded.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha **All:** Come Lord Jesus.

**For users of social media –** that social media will be used by people to build caring relationships, develop nurturing communities, encourage right behavior, and that it will not be used in bullying or dishonest ways.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha **All:** Come Lord Jesus.

**For people who live in fear** – that they be strong, have courage, take heart and seek the support they need to live with freedom, confidence and dignity.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha **All:** Come Lord Jesus.

**For people facing financial difficulty** – that the coming Christmas season will not add financial burden to families.

(Silence) **Reader:** Maranatha **All:** Come Lord Jesus.

**For our local community of … (what are the needs of your locality – housing, health, truancy, an accident… Please discern the needs of your locality and compose a petition.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Concluding Prayer**

God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms, broken lives are made whole, and fearful hearts grow strong in faith. Open our eyes and ears to your presence that we may go and announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit…**Amen**