

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent –  
Laetare Sunday**

**Celebrant:** Today we celebrate Laetare Sunday, which means “Rejoice Sunday” from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon “Rejoice, Jerusalem”, when we are allowed to relax a little, as Lent is nearly over.

The response is: **Lord graciously hear us.**

- 1. We pray for your Church, Pope Francis, Bishop Marcus, Father Keiron and all clergy and religious, that they may be true shepherds, and lead us out of darkness into light, by the green pastures of the Gospel and the restful waters of prayer. Lord Hear us. . .**
- 2. We pray for those in public authority, that they will not make life difficult for poor families, old people and disabled people in the present economic situation. Lord hear us. .**
- 3. We pray for those struggling with difficulties, especially children and young people in care, or who have just left care, as there is a collection for Catholic Care today, and those who are blind or partially sighted, when they were born like that, or have lost their sight as adults. Lord hear us. . .**
- 4. We pray for the local community, that they may help vulnerable children and young people, and people with disabilities, try to understand their difficulties, and treat them with respect. Lord hear us. . .**

Let us pray to Mary, mother of our Lord, who knew joy and sorrow in life, to intercede for us with the Father – **Hail Mary etc.....**

**The Silence**

*Celebrant* Let us add our own personal prayers and petitions in the silence of our hearts.

**Final Prayer**

**Merciful Father, please accept the prayers we offer You, as we joyfully travel towards our Jerusalem – Easter and the Resurrection.**

R . Amen.