**Reflection Thursday 3rd Week Advent 2021**

The Lord speaks to us in a special way every day in Advent. He reminds us that: *his love for us will never leave us and his covenant of peace with us will never be shaken.* (Is 54:10). God continues to send prophets and messengers today. Unfortunately, we often fail to hear or recognise them. Advent offers the opportunity to become more attuned to how God speaks to us and through whom. The message he sends concerns the love and peace he offers us.

Advent seeks to show us the true nature of God’s feelings for humanity as we journey together as the body of Christ. In a world where fear is easier than hope, God gives us hope. In a time when many are blind to the needs of the world, God opens our eyes. As we await the coming of the Lord, God invites us to embrace the future he offers while Jesus calls us to make this future a reality for everyone.

*Unclutter our lives, Lord, we have too much, consume too much, expect too much. Grant us perspective to see this world through others’ eyes not just our own. Grant us compassion to play our part in response to the needs of others. Grant us gratitude for what we have: our daily bread, the gift of life. Unclutter our lives, Lord, give us space, simplicity and thankful hearts.*

*God of healing, God of wholeness, we bring you our brokenness, our sinfulness, our fears and despair, and lay them at your feet. God of healing, God of wholeness, we hold out hearts and hands, minds and souls to feel your touch, and know the peace that only you can bring. God of healing, God of wholeness, in your presence and power grant us faith and confidence that broken lives are made whole.*

***In a small town there was a poor Christian old lady.*** *She continually prayed that God would bring her groceries. One day her non-Christian neighbour went out and secretly bought the lady her groceries…*

*When the lady saw the groceries, she rejoiced and thanked the Lord. The neighbour was fed up and told the old lady that God did not bring her groceries he did.*

*She yelled, “****Thank you Lord for bringing me groceries and making the devil pay for them****.”*