

PRESIDER

Dear friends, Jesus makes the cost of discipleship plain to his followers. Choosing his way above all else, let us pray for the whole human family.

READER

We pray for Pope Francis, that age, poor health and opposition will not diminish his unswerving commitment to proclaim the joy of the Gospel. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We give thanks for all whose gospel witness inspires our faith and pray, that like Jesus, we too may cast the fire of love across the face of the earth. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Australia, that the economic and social challenges we face as a nation will bring us together for the sake of the common good. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for scientists of every kind, that National Science Week (13-21 August) will highlight the contribution they make to the wellbeing of the planet and all its creatures. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the staff and volunteers of welfare agencies around the country, that they be able to respond to the demands made upon them with wisdom and compassion. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will follow Jesus through death into glory. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

PRESIDER

God of steadfast love, your Son Jesus stayed true to his mission, even as the cross drew close. Give us the courage to follow him to the end. We ask this through Christ our Lord.