

PRESIDER

Dear friends, at Nazareth Jesus made his own the ancient words of the prophet Isaiah. Impelled by the Spirit of the Lord, let us pray for the whole human family.

READER

We pray for the whole of humanity with Pope Francis and all bishops, that by God's grace and favour this year of conflict and struggle will give way to a new year of solidarity, justice and peace. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the many whose hearts are broken by grief and loss, that the loving-kindness of caring friends and neighbours will ease their pain and hasten their healing. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who are held bound in body, mind or spirit, that they will be set free from captivity and be blessed with a new life of love and hope. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for teachers and students at primary schools across the land, that they will look back over the school year with pride and enjoy a refreshing long break. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for ourselves in this last week of the Advent season, that we will heed Paul's advice and be happy, pray constantly, and for all things give thanks to God. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who have died recently . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be clothed joyfully in the garments of eternal salvation. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

PRESIDER

Giver of life, Lord God, you kindle hope in us by making all things new. Open our eyes in faith to see the advent of your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.