

*With bold faith in God, Mary and Elizabeth brought everlasting joy to birth in the world. Trusting in God's word as they did, let us pray for the rebirth of creation.*

For church communities around the world, that they will be joyful centres of hospitality, grace and peace. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord.

For all women of faith, that they will be clear signs of God's fierce love for the whole human family. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord.

For expectant mothers, especially those who are alone and unsupported, that they will give birth safely and bond lovingly with their child. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord.

For families coming together for Christmas, that their gatherings will be graced with love, peace and thankfulness. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord.

For all travelling far to be reunited with loved ones, that their journeys will be safe and peaceful. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord.

For our faith community, that in this last week Advent we will prepare prayerfully for the birth of the Saviour. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that God's promise of eternal life will be fulfilled in them. *(Pause.)* Let us pray to the Lord

*All-holy God, Mary placed her life in your hands and acclaimed the greatness of your name. Help us to make her faith our own. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*