

PRESIDER

Dear friends, Jesus calls on us to draw from the store of goodness in our hearts. In that spirit let us pray lovingly for all our sisters and brothers.

READER

For Pope Francis and all religious and civil leaders calling for an end to hostilities in Ukraine, that their calls be heeded and a just and lasting peace be negotiated. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For ourselves, that Ash Wednesday will inspire us to undertake renewal of heart and mind this Lent. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the nation of Australia, that a strong spirit of civility and tolerance will limit the need to resolve differences by recourse to law. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For young Indigenous Australians, that the despair that drives them to take their own lives can be replaced by a new sense of belonging. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all those addicted to gambling, that they will be assisted and the perils of gambling be acknowledged in fact and in policy by governments and industry profiteers. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that their death will be swallowed up in the victory of Christ. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

PRESIDER

God of all goodness, your light dispels the darkness from our hearts. Help us walk always as children of the light. We ask this through Christ our Lord.