

**PRESIDER**

Dear friends, Jesus calls us to make his costly passion for God's reign our own. As his faithful followers, let us pray with undivided hearts for a new heaven and a new earth.

**READER**

We pray for the church local and global, that like Jeremiah and Jesus it will dare to announce unwelcome truths boldly for salvation's sake. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the baptised faithful, that no believer will lose sight of Jesus who leads us in our faith and brings it to fulfilment. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the staff and volunteers of humanitarian agencies, that this week's United Nations observance will encourage them in their compassionate service of victims of violence, poverty and social upheaval. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for today's children, women and men trapped in economic or sexual servitude, that campaigners against modern slavery will succeed in setting them free. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all participants in this week's national economic roundtable (19-21 August), that they will set aside their vested interests and debate what is best the common good. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Australia's children, that this year's Children's Book Week (16-23 August) will thrill them with the adventure of reading. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for families bitterly divided by hurt or hate, that they will find the way to healing, forgiveness and reconciliation. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Moira O'Brien and Alma Harris, and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be led by Christ their Good Shepherd to the banquet of eternal life. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

**PRESIDER**

God of unfailing mercy, by the power of the Holy Spirit you free us to follow your Son. Give us the courage to be true to him. We ask this through Christ our Lord.