**PRESIDER
Dear friends, Jesus’ missionary message resounds in our midst again today: ‘The kingdom of God is very near to you’. Heartened by his word, let us pray for the needs of the world.**

**READER
We pray for the countless people, our sisters and brothers in many lands, whose lives have been made an unspeakable misery by war, tyranny and the lust for power, that their cries of pain will pierce leaders’ hearts and open them to mercy. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for missionaries bearing witness to the Gospel in places of warfare and danger, that their steadfast faith will give local communities fresh heart and hope. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for the staff and volunteers of humanitarian agencies, that they alleviate much suffering while being kept safe themselves. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for the indigenous peoples of Australia and the Torres Strait, that this year’s NAIDOC Week (6-13 July) will offer ‘strength, vision and legacy’ to the next generation of leaders. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for all who live from day to day with the pain of loneliness, that they will not retreat into isolation but have the courage to be open to connection and friendship. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for the members of our local conference of St Vincent de Paul, that their humble service of the poor will offer them relief and the gift of self-worth. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for those who have died recently . . ., and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will enjoy forever the peace of the heavenly Jerusalem. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.**

**PRESIDER
God of mercy and compassion, you call us to be missionaries of peace. Be ever with us as we take your word to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**