

PRESIDER

Dear friends, we are led into this new year by Mary, Mother of God. Let us seek God's blessing on the human family for whose salvation Mary bore Jesus her Son.

READER

We pray for peace in every heart and home and land, that Mary's 'Yes' to the angel will bring joy to birth around the world. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Pope Francis and all religious leaders, that they will speak with one voice of the saving mercy of God. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who have been baptised in Christ, that they will glory in their freedom as the children of God. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who have been forced by war, hatred, poverty or hunger to flee their homeland, that they will not be denied the refuge and support that is their human right. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those recovering from devastating floods in Australia and the extreme winter across North America, that they will be renewed in body, mind and spirit. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are deeply worried and anxious about the year ahead, that the care of family and friends will ease their fears. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will join Mary and the saints in heavenly glory. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

PRESIDER

God of all wisdom, in the fullness of time you sent your Son to save us. Keep us true to his name. We ask this through Christ our Lord.