

PRESIDER

Dear friends, fresh from his trial in the wilderness, Jesus announces good news and calls on us to change our ways. Let us pray for the reign of God in our hearts and in our world.

READER

We pray for Pope Francis. May his appeals for an end to the madness of war and the arms trade be heard and heeded by the world's merchants of death. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for global conversion. May the entire human family renounce violence, greed and hate and undertake to work together for the good of all. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for vulnerable communities around the world assisted by Caritas Australia. May our generous support for Project Compassion make a real and lasting difference in their lives. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the many Australian men at risk of taking their own lives. May they be saved from despair by the loyal support of trusted friends. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for children and parents undertaking home group preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May they all grow in awareness of God's loving mercy. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our parish community, especially those preparing to be received into the Church at Easter. May this Lent be a season of faith and hope for all. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May all who have died in Christ be raised to life in him. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

PRESIDER

Faithful God, in the waters of baptism you make us a new creation in Christ. Keep us free to follow him with all our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.