

**PRESIDER**

Dear friends, Jesus teaches us the way of mercy, peace and humble faith in God. In the spirit of The Beatitudes, we place the world in God's loving hands.

**READER**

We pray for Pope Francis, that his visit to South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (31 January – 5 February) will be safe and will sow new seeds of peace. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the followers of all world faiths, that Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7 February) will draw them together in service of the human family. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for teachers and students, that they will start the new school year with energy and confidence. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the primary carers of people with a disability or chronic poor health, that they will have all the support they need to provide sustained and loving care. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for women in violent or controlling relationships, that they will find their way to safety and freedom. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will live forever in the kingdom of heaven. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

**PRESIDER**

God of heavenly wisdom, you call us to live with the trust of the poor in spirit. Open our hearts and minds to see your goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.