

**PRIEST**

Dear friends, like John the Baptist we are called to declare God's saving mercy for all. In hope and love let us pray for our world.

**READER**

We pray for Pope Francis and all religious leaders, that their words will offer consolation and their actions address the betterment of all peoples. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the holy city of Jerusalem, that by God's grace it will become an inspiring place of peace for people of every race and faith. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for humanitarian workers around the world, that they will be encouraged in their efforts by today's international Volunteer Day for Social and Economic Development. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who have fled or been forced from their homeland, that like the exiles of Baruch's day they will one day return home in safety and peace. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all people in aged and palliative care, that they will be looked after with respect, compassion and love. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for emergency service personnel preparing for the summer fire season, that their dedicated care for the community and for nature will keep everyone safe. (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 reach the perfect goodness promised by the Day of Christ. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

**PRIEST**

All-saving God, you called John the Baptist to proclaim the forgiveness of sin. Open our eyes and our hearts to your saving grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.