

**PRESIDER**

Dear Sisters and brothers, the witness of John the Baptist to the true nature of Jesus affirms our faith that Jesus is the Chosen One of God.

**READER**

We pray for Pope Leo, that his affirmation that baptism draws each person into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, will strengthen our bond of unity. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the world in all its present turmoil, that warring leaders will renounce aggression, hate, vengeance and personal ambition and choose to campaign for the good of all. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who live in this blest land, that we will pledge ourselves to overcome all forms of racism, discrimination and vilification in our hearts and across the nation. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the administrators of justice in Australia's states and territories, that they will do all in their power to ensure that the justice system serves the best interests of First Nations people. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Christians who endure persecution for their faith, that they will be sustained in their relationship with Jesus with great courage. Lord, hear us. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for emergency personnel and volunteers on alert for the season's fires, floods and storms, that they will stay safe as they protect others' lives and possessions. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Una O'Malley, and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will take their place among the saints in heavenly glory. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

**PRESIDER**

God, our light and our strength, you sanctify us with your Spirit and send us out as heralds of hope. Bless all that we do in your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.