

PRESIDER

Dear sisters and brothers, Jesus' preaching and healing shone the light of salvation wherever he went. We pray for the light of Christ to dispel the darkness of sin from the world.

READER

We pray for Pope Leo and all the bishops of the church, that like the first disciples Jesus called they will follow him without hesitation. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the innumerable people suffering displacement, hunger, fear and distress in so much of our war-torn world, that the merciless leaders causing their pain will be persuaded to negotiate for peace. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who dwell in this great land of the Southern Cross, that the trauma of the Bondi killings will prompt deep reflection and fresh pledges of solidarity on tomorrow's Australia Day. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have lost homes and livelihoods in the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods, that their heartbreak will be eased by the support of the local community and all levels of government. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for children, parents and teachers as school returns year, that together they will enjoy a new year of discovery, learning and development. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently. . . , and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will rejoice forever in the presence of divine love. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

PRESIDER

Eternal God, at the dawn of time you divided light from darkness, and in time's fulness sent your Son to be the light of the world. Help us to live always as children of the light. We ask this through Christ our Lord.