

PRIEST: God our Father, we offer up our prayers from a world in distress and in a time marked by turbulence and uncertainty. But we also know that we are held by you, and that your Spirit is beside us. So today we dare to pray with optimism, giving thanks for the happiness and beauty that are to be found in your creation.

READER: With gratitude we pray for Pope Leo's recovery from surgery, asking God to give him good health and strength, that he may continue to lead the Church and guide the faithful. We ask that his example will inspire and encourage others who face uncertainty in their own health, or that of a loved one. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We hold before God in prayer all those who are living through war or in places where there is unrest or turbulence – for those who are displaced, for families torn apart, for anyone who cannot access adequate food, shelter or healthcare. We pray that those in positions of power will draw upon their reserves of courage and compassion, to put life and human dignity above military, political and personal objectives. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: As we pray, we think of our local community – both those who pray alongside us and those outside these walls. May we find ways of reaching out and coming together, to make our neighbourhood a safe, welcoming and inclusive place – a beacon of light radiating the joy of God into the world, dispelling the darkness. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: On the 60th anniversary of the tragedy of Aberfan we remember the 116 children and 29 adults who lost their lives; we remember at this time their families and community who have pulled together with resilience and hope. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We pray that anyone who is in pain – who is unwell, grieving, lonely, anxious, or battling with demons such as addiction, greed or selfishness – will find hope and joy even in the midst of their suffering. We ask God to show us today how we can ease somebody's burden in our own corner of the world. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We pray for those who have died recently: Father Christopher Fitzpatrick, Philomena Kenny, William Moore, Patricia Ann Sheasby, Dorothy Reynard, Bridget McNamara, David Raponi, Anne Cooper, Tom O'Callaghan, Bridie Withers, Bill Carthy, Malcolm Johnston, Karen Beale, Mary Bennett, Marian McAndrew, Po Kee Amory Augustine Wong, Mary Bernadette Bennett, and Christopher Pedley. We also remember all those with anniversaries at this time. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We remember all who are sick, those in hospital and those who are housebound. We remember especially Father Pat Sayles, Angela Keating, Philomena Gallagher, Helen Brookes, Briege Williams, Jonathan Williams, Tom Duffy, Vito and Ledda Piccolo, Ronan Gosh, Mary Cassidy, Jess Stanton, Graham Sampson, and Edward O'Prey. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

Let us ask Our Lady, to pray with us: Hail Mary... Now let us pray for a few moments in silence for our own needs and intentions and for those intentions placed in the prayer box.

We pause for a moment of private prayer...

PRIEST: God our Father, give us the courage and confidence to believe fully and unreservedly in your love, care and compassion for every living being. Guide us in our resolve to make a difference in our own way. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.