

**PRIEST:** God of light and life, as we stand at the beginning of a new year we bring before you the hopes and needs of the world and our own communities.

**READER:** Let us pray for Pope Leo, asking God to continue to grant him the wisdom, steadiness and courage needed to lead the Church. May his leadership encourage faith, promote dialogue and inspire love, peace and compassion among all people of faith.

**(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.**

**READER:** Let us pray for our communities, for our families and neighbourhoods; that the start of the new year might revitalise us in a fresh spirit of kindness and cooperation. We ask God to show us how together we can transform our communities into vibrant examples of kingdom living in our world. **(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.**

**READER:** We pray for those who have felt sadness over the festive season, for those for whom it has been a time of suffering and stress. May they discern the glimmer of God's constant, eternally glowing love. And may they turn to see the light, until it shines fully and brightly, dispelling darkness, radiating joy. **(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.**

**READER:** We pray for Students, teachers and Parents who begin a new School Term next week; may they be refreshed by their Christmas break, so that they may endeavour to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their school life this term. **(Pause)**

**Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.**

**READER:** We pray that those touched by shadows of bereavement, may feel themselves close to their dear ones, through him whose light even death could not overcome. We remember those who have died recently: Joy Smith, Anthony Herron, Antonio Albini, Mary Nicholls, Michael Donnelly, Seamus Manley, Phil Walsh, Barbara Bolton, Mary Rita Johnston, Nora McGrogan, Monsignor Vaughan Morgan and Father David Keniry. We remember those who lost their lives in the Swiss chalet fire tragedy. We also remember those with anniversaries at this time. **(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us. (Pause)**

**READER:** We remember all who are sick, those in hospital and those who are housebound. We remember especially Father Joseph, Angela Keating, Benjamín Wort, Lilian, Tony Duffy, Philomena Gallagher, Ken Shirley, Savio Baretto, Eddie Martin, Helen Brookes, Briege Williams, Jonathan Williams, Anthony O'Neill, Michael, Patrick, Aiden & Anne O'Donnell, Margaret Hughes, Paulina Samathar, Father Michael White, Breda Fleming, Juliana Benjamin, Kate Nelson, Wilson Cotton, Angela Hyland, Cornelius Callanan, Noreen O'Connor, Larry Perkins, Tom Duffy, Aggie O'Reilly, Bernadette Cawley and our families wherever they may be. **(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.**

Let us ask Mary the Mother of the Lord 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.

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**PRIEST.** God of mercy and hope, receive the prayers we bring before you. Help us to live the year ahead with compassion, courage and trust in your constant presence alongside us. Amen