

PRIEST: Lord God, as we hear the story of your baptism, we invite your Spirit to visit us. Direct our prayers, Lord, towards love, compassion and grace.

READER: We pray for Pope Francis as he speaks out about the scourge of child labour. We ask that his prayers might be heard in all corners of the Earth, and we pray for an end to child suffering everywhere.

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

READER. As news reaches us of extreme cold weather and wildfires in various corners of the globe, especially America we ask God to be with all those affected. We pray for those who have lost their lives their homes and their possessions. We pray, too, for all God's creatures – wildlife, pets and livestock – caught up in these events.

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

READER: As temperatures continue to plummet, bringing the risk of wintry hazards, we pray for those that are vulnerable and isolated. May they receive the help and support they need.

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

READER: In our prayers we hold before God those who live in places where there is war or unrest. We ask for the Spirit of peace to touch their lives, bringing comfort and assurance of God's Spirit among them.

(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 the sick of our own Parish; Benjamin Wort, William Moran, Hughie Quinn, Rosie McConnelly, Damian Poole, Angela and Tony Duffy, Philomena Gallagher, Ken Shirley, Danny Meadows, Jennifer O'Donnell, John Kavanagh, Michael, Kavanagh, Kevin McDaid, James Brown, John McCarthy, Sandra Evans, Christopher Edmund Poole, Catherine Walton, Philip Saunders, Molly Saunders, Eileen Nolan, Savio Baretto, Joan Gibson, Eddie Martin, Helen Brookes, Briege Williams, Jonathan Williams, Anthony O'Neill, Michael, Patrick, Aiden & Anne O'Donnell, Margaret Hughes, Paulina Samathar, Philomena Baretto, Patrick Hickey, Father Michael White, Father Andrew McCann, Father Gerard Kelly, and our families wherever they may be. May they find hope and healing and may we all find ways of responding to their needs.

(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: Father Fred Sheldon, Monsignor Graham Wilkinson, Raphael Lee, Gerard Owen Courtney, Terence Patrick Wright, Noel Homes, Laura Bourke, Joe Westman and Mary Johnson : we pray that they all may be brought to life in Christ who has destroyed death as the final enemy under His feet. We also remember those with anniversaries at this time. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

Let us ask Mary the Mother of the Lord to pray with us: as we say- 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.

PRIEST: Holy Spirit, help us to remember that you are with us always, everywhere, and help us to see what we can do to take this message out into the world for the benefit of others. Amen.