

**PRIEST:** Lord God, today we hear that following Jesus means accompanying him in the good times and the bad. Yet Calvary led to the joys of Easter and to new life and hope. Today we come before you, bringing our prayers, confident that you are waiting and listening to even the unspoken longings of our hearts.

**READER:** Let us pray for Pope Francis as he proclaims the Gospel message to the world. May his inspiration lead us to discover Jesus and the enormity of his loving care for each one of us.

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

**READER:** Let us pray for the people of Afghanistan at this time of uncertainty and fear. May they find hope and freedom amid the changes which are taking place in their country.

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

**READER:** Let us pray for our country as we search for ways to provide for the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. May decisions be guided by wisdom and a genuine desire to work for the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

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

**READER:** Let us pray for families, teachers and students at the start of the new academic year. May the new beginnings encourage warm friendships, greater confidence, happiness and generosity.

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

**READER:** Let us pray for all those who are forced to abandon their homes and everything they hold dear in their search for security and freedom. May they rediscover laughter despite their tears and homesickness.

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

**READER:** We remember those who have died recently especially John Owens, John Lawrence, Mary Dunleavy, Sheila Kelly, Martha Sheridan, Cathleen Joyce, Damian Ryan and Catherine Coyle. We also remember those with anniversaries at this time especially, Father Ignatius, Simon Gerard Gibson, Teresa Wood, Valerie Harvey, James Patrick Haveron, Margaret Dunne, Rose Mary Walsh, John Foley, Thomas Joseph Smith, Patrick Hadland, Margaret Veronica Jones, Amanda Denton-Hawkes, Rose Tirey, Ellen Blakemore, Kathleen Mary Whitehouse, Christopher Hinckley, Charles Mobsby, Liam Jones, John Morgan, Noreen Mary Cecilia Porter and all 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 the sick of our own Parish, William Moran, Margaret Lennon, Kath Reidy, Hughie Quinn, John White, Father Fred Sheldon, Dan Doyle, Damian Poole, Kath Clark, Angela and Tony Duffy, Philomena Gallagher, Ken and Doreen Shirley, Chris Jena, Keith Frettsome, Lena Gallagher, Danny Meadows, John Kavanagh, Peter Kavanagh, Patricia Mann and Paul Mann, Malachy Hanly, Kevin McDaid, James Brown, John McCarthy, Sandra Evans, Christopher Edmund Poole, Noreen O'Connor, Molly Saunders, Gillian Jones, and Diane Burgess 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.

**PRIEST:** Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, watch over, protect and bless us as we try to come ever closer to you and to each other. Amen.