

PRIEST: Celebrating this Laetare Sunday, a moment of joy in our journey through Lent, we turn to God who leads us from darkness into light and from sorrow into hope.

READER: We pray for Pope Leo and all Church leaders as they call for peace in the Middle East. May Christian communities be places of welcome, compassion and safety for all who seek healing and a new beginning. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: This weekend we give thanks for the gift of motherhood. We give thanks for the women in our lives who have nurtured, loved and guided us- for their strength, wisdom and unconditional love. We remember those who may be missing their mothers at this time- comfort them with your love. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We pray for all preparing for baptism and to receive the Eucharist and sacrament of reconciliation for the first time on Holy Saturday. May this be a time of peace and courage, and may they feel Christ close to them. (Pause). Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We pray for the innocent victims of conflict, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan. May leaders reject violence and choose peace, truth, and respect for every person. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We pray for those who have died recently: Father Joseph, Brenda Carney, Patricia Butler, Clare Klein, Paulina Samathar, Cornelius Callanan, Laurence Marie Knight, Stephen Jenkins, Chris Johnson, Mary Munko, Mary Louisa Law, Veronica Pickering, Frank Byrne, Geraldine McHugh, Francis Mazone, Margaret Stanley and Margaret McCabe. 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 Angela Keating, Benjamin 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, Father Michael White, Breda Fleming, Juliana Benjamin, Wilson Cotton, Angela Hyland, Noreen O'Connor, Larry Perkins, Tom Duffy, Aggie O'Reilly, Teresa Toher 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: God of light and mercy, hear the prayers we bring before you. Strengthen us with your grace, that we may walk joyfully toward Easter. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.