PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST: With confidence and trust in God's mercy we turn to our loving Father with our prayers for all in need:

READER: For Francis our Pope, Declan our Bishop and all church leaders, that they may continue to be witnesses to the love of Christ for all people. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy

- READER: For all who are struggling with faith, or are persecuted for their faith, that God's grace will strengthen them and give them renewed hope. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For those who suffer bullying or intimidation, that Christ, who was belittled by his own people, may grant them resilience of mind and peace of heart. (pause) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For our own parish community, that we may challenge the cynical and the sceptical and give prophetic witnesses to our world. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For the neglected, the housebound, the sick and those who are terminally ill, that they will know the Lord's comfort and support. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For all who have died, that Christ may welcome them into his kingdom, where insult, hardship and persecution are no more, and grace is brought to perfection. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy

PRIEST: Gracious God, we ask you to continue to watch over the lives of your people. Hear our prayers and grant that we may draw closer to you each day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.