

- PRIEST: God always welcomes us and hears our prayers.  
Let us pray for the needs of our Church and our world:
- READER: **For the Church, that the Pope, bishops, and all church leaders may make no distinction between people and inspire us all to live in harmony with those who appear different from us.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy...**
- READER: **For the world, that its leaders will always model the mercy and compassion of God in the ways they treat their people.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy...**
- READER: **For all who whose eyes are closed to the possibility of seeing Christ in others, that they may look at the world in a new way and welcome difference, just as Jesus did.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy...**
- READER: **For children and young people as they begin a new school year, that their eyes and ears may be opened to the adventure of new friends and new learning.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy...**
- READER: **For all who are sick or suffering, burdened or bereaved, that they will experience the healing love of God in their lives.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy...**
- READER: **For our parishes and communities, that they may be places of welcome and compassion, where rich and poor alike are recognised as beloved by God.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy...**
- PRIEST: God of mercy and compassion,  
may our ears be open to receive your word  
and our mouths to proclaim our faith.  
Hear our prayers, that we might be  
a sign of your blessings to all whom we meet.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.