

PRIEST: Jesus said, 'Let the little children come unto me'. As children of God we now turn to the Father with our prayers:

READER: **For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that he will continue to lead the Church in proclaiming the Good News of Christ.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the Church that, in her preaching and her actions, she may be a faithful bride to Christ, who renews all humanity in love.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For a faithful stewardship of God's creation, that all people may learn to care for the earth's riches with justice and fairness.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For married people everywhere and for those experiencing tension in their marriage, that the Lord will bring them to a place of understanding, respect and love.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the work of CAFOD, that it may continue to change the lives and hearts of people around the world, bringing hope and help for as long as it is needed.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For all of us gathered here today, that all that is unworthy in our lives may be pruned away and all that is true be nourished.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the sick and those who suffer in any way, that they may be comforted by the Holy Spirit.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

PRIEST: Merciful Father,  
fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
that we may always give you thanks and praise,  
through Christ our Lord.