

PRIEST: As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ
let us turn to the Father with our prayers and petitions:

READER: **For Pope Francis and the Church throughout the world
that all will be blessed as they continue their mission
of proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all who gather to celebrate the Eucharist today
that sharing the bread from heaven, they may have the fullness of life.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all who have lost heart or whose faith has grown weary,
that their love of Christ will be renewed
as they prepare to celebrate his birth.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For our own parish community, that our Advent preparations
will help each of us draw closer to God.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For the sick, the suffering, the homeless and the hungry,
that we may always recognise the Christ who lives in them
and share with them the gifts that God has given to us.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

PRIEST: God our Father,
you have made us your sons and daughters
in Jesus Christ.
Help us to live by that truth as we await his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.