

PRIEST: At the beginning of the New Year we turn to God
asking that he will continue to pour out his Spirit upon us.

READER: **For the whole Church,
that this coming year will see all who follow Christ
more closely united in their discipleship of the Lord.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For our world, that the peace which Christ brings
will become a reality for all peoples.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all in our community who will receive the Sacraments this coming
year: for those who will be baptised, confirmed, married, anointed, and
for all who will receive their first Holy Communion. May the seal of
God's Holy Spirit transform them into the image of Christ.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For ourselves, that we will form a community built on love
and so be a powerful witness to the presence of God**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For the sick, the suffering, the dying and the bereaved,
that the light of Christ's love may shine brightly in their lives.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

PRIEST: Lord our God
you come very near to us
in the Child born of the Virgin Mary.
In the depths of darkness she gave birth to Light;
In the depths of silence she brought forth the Word.

Grant that we who ponder these things in our hearts
may recognise in her child our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns forever and ever.