

PRIEST: As we begin our Lenten journey we turn in prayer to God our Father asking for his help as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection at Easter:

READER: **For the Church, that she may be a sign of God's light and goodness in our world, and a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all who are preparing to be baptised at Easter and all who will be received into full communion with the Church: that they will always recognise the presence of Christ in their lives.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For each of us as we prepare to keep Lent Fast day on Friday that we may have a true Spirit of self-denial and be content with less so that others may have more.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all who suffer violence, fear or desperation, that they will be strengthened through the mercy of God and the support of God's people.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For our brothers and sisters everywhere that the Holy Spirit will inspire and challenge us to live out our call to be 'a poor Church for the poor'.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

READER: **For all who are sick or suffering in any way, that they will be strengthened by the knowledge of Christ's love.**

(pause)

Lord in your mercy

PRIEST: God our Father
in every age you call a people
to hear your word and to do your will.
Open our eyes to your deeds
and our ears to the sound of your call
so that our every act may increase our sharing
in the new life you offer to us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.