

PRIEST: As we enter Holy Week, inviting us ever more deeply into the heart of the Paschal Mystery, we turn to God with our prayers:

READER: **For Francis our pope and Declan our bishop, that they may lead us into a greater understanding of the passion and death of the Lord.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the world's leaders, that they may recognise their role as servants of their people.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For all those preparing to be baptised or received into full communion with the Church, that they may come to the celebration of Easter renewed in mind and heart.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For those imprisoned for their witness to the Gospel, that they may be set free to share the message of the crucified and risen Christ.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For all who are sick or housebound, that they may know the healing touch of God's love.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

PRIEST: God our Father, you anointed Jesus your Son to bear our sins, to encourage the weary, to raise up and restore a fallen world.

May the paschal mystery of Christ's death and Resurrection be a reality in our lives. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.