

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 find  
that we who follow Christ are more closely united  
in our discipleship of the Lord.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

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

READER: **For all mothers, especially those who suffer,  
that they may be strong in faith, tender in love  
and courageous in hope.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

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

READER: **For our own parish community,  
that it will be a community built on love  
and a powerful witness to the presence of God.**  
*(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.