**Christmas Day**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As a new light dawns upon the world and the Lord is born for us, let us unite in prayer for our needs and the needs of the world.

1. For Pope Franis and all religious leaders, that they will bear united witness to God’s boundless love for the human family. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For world leaders and those who govern our country: may they be guided by wisdom, justice, and a sincere desire to serve the most vulnerable in the policies they progress. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For those who have to work this Christmas: may they know the blessing of our gratitude and enjoy the grace of rest. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For those away from home at Christmas: refugees, our peace-keeping troops, those who are working overseas, and those who cannot afford to travel. May their sacrifice and commitment be rewarded. **Lord, hear us.**
5. As the angels sang, ‘On earth, peace to people of goodwill’, we pray for peace in the world, especially the Holy Land. May Christ’s birth offer a beacon of hope to nations at war, that they may deepen their efforts for harmony and peace. **Lord, hear us.**
6. The shepherds found Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. We pray for families at Christmas. May they be renewed in the love that the Father has lavished upon them. **Lord, hear us.**
7. We pray for those in our community who have lost loved ones in the last year. May they find consolation in the goodness of the Father who sent his only Beloved Son to convince the world of his love for us. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For those who have died and for those who mourn their loved ones at Christmas. May the light of hope bring healing, solace and hope. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Lord God, as the darkness gives way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh, make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your light to the world. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**