**Christmas Day**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we rejoice at the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, we turn with confidence to God our Father praying that the peace and hope which the Christ-child brings will be welcomed into the world.

1. For the Church, that the people of God will shine brightly in the world as witnesses to the hope that only Christ can give. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our bishop Tom, all priests and religious: may the witness of their lives, their faithfulness in proclaiming the Word, and their dedicated pastoral care proclaim the presence of Christ ‘full of grace and truth’ among His people. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For families reunited over the Christmas period, and families separated because of war, distance or work; connect them with one another in a spirit of love, compassion and kindness. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For all who are homeless this Christmas. In their hardship, may their hunger be satisfied, their fears calmed, and their isolation alleviated. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For the lonely, the bereaved, the sick, and all those who are suffering in any way, that the light of Christ will comfort, console, and heal. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For peace on earth, especially in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine; that the Word made flesh who lived among us, will touch minds and hearts, put an end to all hatred and division and unify the people of the world. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For those who have died; may they join the heavenly hosts in proclaiming: ‘Glory to God in this highest heaven’. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant**: God of love, Father of all, deepen our sense of wonder on this holy day as your Son Jesus, the light of all nations was made flesh and dwelt among us. We ask all these prayers through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**