**Feast of the Ascension of the Lord**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we await the promised return of the Lord who ‘*will come back in the same way’* as the disciples had seen him go, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. In this Jubilee Year, we pray for an increase in the virtues of hope and charity among believers, that we may be witnesses of God’s love in the world. **Lord, hear us.**
2. With Pope Leo, we pray that the world might grow in compassion and find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For government leaders: bless them with a *‘spirit of wisdom and perception*’ that in all things they may govern wisely, with humility and dedicated service. **Lord, hear us.**
4. On this World Communications Day, we pray for all who work in printed media, radio, television, or online. May they communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ with courage and conviction. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For those who use social media: give them wisdom to know what to share, how to engage, and when to speak up. May they always influence the minds and hearts of others for good. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For journalists and those who report world news: may they always confront evil and injustice, and pursue the truth with honesty and courage, respect and integrity. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For students preparing for their Junior and Leaving Cert exams. *‘Enlighten the eyes of [their] minds so that [they] can see that hope his call holds for [them]*’ in life. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For peace in our world, for an end to violence and terrorism, that all people may live in freedom and serve God in each other. **Lord, hear us.**
9. For those ‘*chosen through the Holy Spirit’* for Confirmation at Pentecost. Empower them to live as true disciples of Christ, on fire with the Holy Spirit. **Lord, hear us.**
10. For those who are sick: may they find strength and consolation through the Christian community the Lord has placed around them. **Lord, hear us.**
11. For those who have died; may they meet the Lord in the air, and enjoy the vision of God forever. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** God our Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers so that, in the time between Jesus’ ascension and his return in majesty, we may bear witness to your great love for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**