**Second Sunday of Christmas**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As the ‘Word was made flesh and lived among us’, we turn to our Heavenly Father in prayer full of confidence that darkness will never overcome His light

1. With Pope Francis, we pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. **Lord, hear us.**
2. In this Jubilee Year, help us to become Pilgrims of Hope who are taught by the Word of Truth and fed with the Bread of Life. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For our own parish community, that each of us may learn to place all our hope and faith in the promises of the Lord and so be witnesses to the power of God’s grace. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For those preparing for Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation in the coming months; may their lives always be transformed by the ‘free gift’ of God’s grace. **Lord, hear us.**
5. As St. Paul praises the community for the ‘*love that you show towards all the saints*’, we pray for all who actively bring aid and comfort to those in need. Reward their selfless concern and compassion and provide them with the resources they need, when they need them. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For our political leaders: may they always strive to be a ‘*witness’* that brings the light of hope to the poor, the homeless, the migrant, those in need of health services, and the elderly. **Lord, hear us.**
7. We pray for those who are sick, especially those who are undergoing treatment for cancer at this time. Comfort them during times of anguish, pain, confusion and despair. Bless them with healing and inner peace. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For those who have died; may they inherit ‘the rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** God of light and hope, enlighten the eyes of our mind so that we can see what hope your call holds for us. Trusting in your truth and grace, we bring these prayers through Christ, our Lord. **Amen**.