**The Ascension of the Lord**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we wait and watch for the Lord’s return, with trust and hope, we bring our prayers before the Lord:

1. For the Church: may the Holy Spirit help us to recognise the diversity of charisms within the Christian community so they can renew the Church’s missionary courage and zeal. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For all Christians: help them to lead lives worthy of their vocations, that they may witness ‘to the ends of the earth’ of the saving love of God. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For a spirit of gratitude in our lives: for the blessings of good health, faith, peace, security, and God’s providential care. May we always give thanks to the God, the source of all blessing. **Lord, hear us.**
4. ‘*Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together’*. For peace in our world and an end to all war and conflict. Touch the minds and hearts of adversaries that they may seek the paths of lasting peace. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For vocations to priesthood and consecrated life; that faith communities may devote themselves more earnestly to fostering and encouraging a culture of vocations. **Lord, hear us.**
6. ‘*Proclaim the Good News to all creation*’. On this World Communications Day, we pray for all in the Church who communicate the saving truth of the Gospel. May they be diligent servants of the Word and conscientious champions of the truth. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For all who are sick, especially those in rehabilitation from accidents, addiction, or ill-health. Strengthen them on the road to recovery. Encourage them with a spirit of determination, self-confidence, and grace. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For all who have died; grant them eternal rest. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, who raised your Son Jesus to heavenly glory, may our prayers rise before your throne of glory, and in your loving mercy be grant, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**