

Priest

The Lord hears our voice. In the midst of all our life challenges the Lord hears us and, if we follow, will lead us to peace. We bring all our prayers to the Lord.

Reader

As we begin the **holy season of Lent**, we pray for the Church: that we are able to make the most of this “*acceptable time*” for reflection and renewal and so grow closer to Jesus. **Pause** ... Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

As we approach the date when we are scheduled to leave the **European Union**, we join with Christians from all denominations to pray for our country: that our political leaders will be guided above by wisdom and sound judgement. **Pause** ... Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray for the work of **Cafod** and other aid agencies: that **Lent Fast Day on Friday** raises both awareness and financial help for their many projects around the world. **Pause** ... Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We pray for **persecuted Christians** around the world: that the Holy Spirit is with them to strengthen their resolve so they can find time and space for prayer and worship. **Pause** ... Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

Let us pray for the **vulnerable young people** who are caught up in gang violence: that they are able to find the help and support they need to make a better life. **Pause** ... Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We bring our own prayers to the Lord in the silence of our heart.

PLEASE TAKE A LONG PAUSE

Lord hear us ... **Lord, graciously hear us**

We now bring our prayers to Mary, our Mother to intercede for us: **Hail Mary...**

Priest

Loving Father, we place our trust in you. Hear and grant the prayers we offer today through your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**