

Universal Prayer **READER:** Please read slowly and distinctly. Thank you.

Priest's Introduction

We should pour forth prayers at all times, dear brothers and sisters, but, above all, in these days of Lent we ought to watch more intently with Christ and direct our petitions more fervently to God.

For the elderly, lonely, sick, poor, marginalized, unemployed or oppressed; or refugees stranded with their families; and for all people suffering injury or loss of life or property due to climate change and environmental disasters, we pray to **You** Lord....

For all victims of abuse and all our brothers and sisters who suffer exclusion; for those who struggle against peer pressure or bullying, that in standing up for their convictions they may have that gladness which no one can take away, we pray to **You** Lord....

For Pope Francis' intention for March: "that Chinese Catholics be "truly Christians" and "good citizens" who "promote the Gospel", but with respect for others, and "that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity", we pray to **You** Lord....

For the whole Christian people, that in this sacred time they may be more abundantly nourished by every word that comes from the mouth of God and be instruments of peace among nations – especially persecuted Christians – that all Christians may boldly bear united witness to Jesus, the Divine Mercy, we pray to **You** Lord....

For those who seek a welcome at our table and a place in our communities, and for the troubled members of our families, neighbourhoods, schools, and places of work; – for abusers, bullies, and all in need of conversion and healing, we pray to **You** Lord....

That men being called by You, Lord, to serve as priests may take courage and put their trust in You and say "Yes!" to your call as Mary and Joseph did, we pray to **You** Lord....

That our governments may respect parents as first educators of their children, and that all children and families in trouble, and all who suffer from the rigours of winter or other troubles, may find comfort in your love, O God, given in Jesus, we pray to **You** Lord....

Lord Jesus, for engaged couples preparing for marriage and family life; that they may be inspired and encouraged by the lives of Mary and Joseph, we pray to **You** Lord....

Priest's Prayer

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that your people may turn to you with all their heart, so that whatever they dare to ask in fitting prayer they may receive by your mercy, through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

(Collection)