

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL CHRISTMAS DAY 2013**

1. Lord, we welcome to our church today our many visitors, particularly those who are visiting their families for Christmas and those we have not seen for some time. We assure them that they are always welcome here in your Church and pray that you will bless them in their lives in the year ahead.

A. We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

2. We pray for those who through emigration, illness or other personal reasons are separated from family or homeland this Christmas, that God's comforting and strengthening love will sustain them,

A. We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

3. We think of those who are suffering this Christmas through homelessness, violence, illness, bereavement, loneliness, poverty, hunger, war or natural disaster. We pray that through the help, concern and generosity of those of us who are spared such tragedy, they may be helped out of their difficulties and experience less troubled times in the New Year.

A. We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

4. At this time of joy and celebration, we think of those in our community who have lost loved ones in the last year. May they find consolation in the goodness of the Father who sent his only Beloved Son onto this earth to show his love for us and to earn us redemption

A. We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

5. Today we celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour. We pray to the Lord that, under the guidance of Pope Francis, we can see a rebirth in our Church and that the Holy Spirit will lead our bishops, clergy and laity in the way of love, truth, generosity, justice and the care of the poor.

A. We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

6. Let us pray for the whole world and especially for our own country, that this Christmas we may see more clearly that peace comes not through violence, bitterness and hatred but through love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

A. We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer

7. We remember in silence our own particular needs and those of our families, friends and neighbours.

We pray to the Lord                      R. Lord hear our prayer