**Prayers of the Faithful**

 **22nd December 2019**

**Priest:** In Jesus, God is truly with us. Gathered in his presence, we confidently raise our

hearts in prayer

**Reader:**

1. As we come close to the season of Christmas,

Let us pray for the church throughout the world,

That this may be for her a season of God’s favour and a time of renewal.

**LORD**, Hear Us

1. May the Lord bless our various preparations

for the celebration of Christmas.

May we keep Christ at the centre,

and may we prepare our hearts to welcome him anew.

**LORD** hear us

1. For the poor of this world, the victims of war,

civil unrest, famine and natural disaster.

May our solidarity with them impact on how we celebrate Christmas.

**LORD** hear us

1. For those who are in mourning,

And who will be aware of the empty chair at the table this Christmas.

May their faith be their consolation,

And eternal life for their loved ones be their hope.

**LORD** hear us

1. Christ came that we might have life, life in all its fulness.

May those who have died be cleansed of all their sins

And come to share in eternal life.

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**LORD** hear us

1. **We pause for our own prayers……………………… (5 Sec. Pause)**

**Priest: We pray for the dead………………………………...**

May our lives as well as our words give you glory, almighty Father, as we make these and all our prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen