Christmas Year B December 25th

***Optional***

***Response for***

***Prayer of Faithful***

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa. A very warm welcome to everyone who has gathered here for this joyous celebration. ‘Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy. This day a saviour has been born to you; it is Christ the Lord’ – two thousand years ago, this message of great joy was given to shepherds. Today, it is given to us. Let us open our minds and hearts to receive these ‘glad tidings of great joy.’ Welcome to ……………………… (*parish name*). Let’s stand and sing with joy.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that this Christmas will stir in us a great desire to seek love in all things and in all we do.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For nations and peoples who face war, conflict or civil unrest –** that there will be peace.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For the whole human family** – that as one human family, we grow stronger in awareness that we are connected to and dependent on each other, and that we increase in our desire to seek each other’s well-being and the common good.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For babies –** that they will be loved, nurtured and cared for as they grow, so that their humanity might flourish.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For those who grieve the loss of loved ones** – that the Christmas star will light the way to new peace and new calm.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For refugees –** that they will be made welcome.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For each person gathered here** – that as Mary and Joseph trusted, we will trust Christ to be a transforming presence in our lives, taking away our hearts of stone, giving us hearts for love alone.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For the planet on which we live –** that people will not be overwhelmed by forecasts of climate change, but rather that we respond energetically to Pope Francis call to act, and engage with the Laudato si Action Platform.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**For our local community of**………………….. That\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please add a prayer for your local community.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord born anew hear our prayer **All:** Christ our Lord hear our prayer.

**Concluding Prayer**

Almighty God, draw us into the mystery of your love. May we have the humility to be touched and changed by your great love that we see as we gaze upon the vulnerable Christ-baby. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, one among us, who lives and reigns in unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever ... …**Amen**