Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Year A January 1st

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Good morning. A very warm welcome to you. Today is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, and we hear of Mary who kept all she heard, pondering things in her heart. It is also New Year’s Day – Happy New Year. I welcome you warmly to ………………………… (parish name). Let us take a moment of silence to prepare for this Eucharist. **(20 seconds - stay at microphone).** Tēnā koutou katoa. We are one body. Let us stand together.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that we faithfully carry the good news of salvation, love and peace to the world.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For all community and national leaders –** that they lead with justice and wisdom, and strive always for peace.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For all mothers –** that they have a sense of the importance of motherhood, knowing their gentle guidance and loving care will shape their children’s lives.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For health carers and all who care for women and babies during pregnancy and birth** – that their work will be well paid, satisfying, and free of unnecessary frustrations.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For unborn babies –** that the womb will be a safe place and that their birth will be anticipated with joy.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For children without mother or father –** that they will be cared for loved and supported.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For our common home –** that all will extend gracious care to this planet on which we are so dependent.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**Concluding Prayer** *(Priest)*

O God, born of the Virgin Mary, you draw near to us. She gave birth in the depths of darkness. Hear, therefore, our prayers from the depths of our hearts. We make our prayer through the One who was born of Mary, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and forever. ***AMEN.***