**First Sunday of Lent**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** St. Paul says, ‘*The faith we proclaim is very near to you; it is on your lips and in your heart’*. In that faith, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. For the Church on its Jubilee pilgrimage of Hope: may this Lenten season deepen our appreciation of the hope offered to all believers through the mercy and forgiveness of God. **Lord, hear us.**
2. With Pope Francis, we pray for families in crisis: heal the wounds of distress, hurt and resentment. Foster a spirit of understanding, humility and compassion for healing and forgiveness. **Lord, hear us.**
3. As we celebrate the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering, we pray for all who volunteer in the Church. May their selfless generosity and witness to the love of Christ continue to transform minds, hearts and lives. **Lord, hear us.**
4. That we may have a true spirit of self-denial during this Lenten season and be content with less so that others may have more. **Lord, hear us.**
5. We pray for all catechumens and candidates who are presenting themselves for reception into the Church at the Rite of Election in the cathedral this weekend. May we grow with them in the life Christ has shared with us. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For refugees, those fleeing conflict, exploitation, poverty and war: bring an end to all forms of ‘*ill-treatment*’ ‘*misery’*, and ‘*oppression’* in the world. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For those who are struggling with their mental health; that they will be strengthened through the mercy of God who is their ‘*refuge’* and ‘*stronghold’*. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For those who are hungry, poor or homeless – give us the grace to respond with an open heart that safeguards their dignity and provides shelter, security and food. **Lord, hear us.**
9. For those who are sick: that they may be comforted, strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit who ministers God’s love and healing to all who suffer. **Lord, hear us.**
10. For those who have died: bless them with the eternal vision of God. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, you sent your angels to minister to Jesus in the wilderness during his time of temptation. We pray that you will send your angels to minister to all those for whom we have prayed as we make these prayers through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**