

**The Universal Prayer**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**  
**Sunday 11th January 2015**

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers,  
as we leave behind today our joyful Christmas Time  
and enter into Ordinary Time, which is nonetheless  
filled with God's extraordinary blessings, we make this  
Universal Prayer.

1. That the pastoral visit of Pope Francis to Sri Lanka and the Philippines,  
beginning on Monday, will highlight the value of reconciliation between  
peoples, justice in government, and care of the poor and needy.  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God.**
  
2. That the grace of baptism may be renewed in the lives of all Christians  
so that, by working together in charity, they will build up the unity of the  
Church.  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God.**
  
3. That all who have been baptised in this church  
and in our parish, may know that the favour of God rests on them.  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God**
  
4. That those who have lost homes and property and livestock or been  
affected by the bushfires in any way, will receive great support from the  
community, compassionate dealings from government agencies and  
justice from insurance companies.  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God**

5. That firefighters, the police, emergency service personnel and volunteers, who have assisted in the bushfires, will receive our prayerful gratitude.  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God**
6. That the commitment to find peace for the people of Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Nigeria and in other places of violence will not falter, but grow in strength in this new year.  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God**
7. That all who have been baptised in our parish and from our families and have now passed through death will inherit the eternal life prepared for them.  
We remember also ...  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Grant this, almighty God**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father,  
anoint us in your Holy Spirit  
so that we can walk in the light of Christ,  
living his commandment of love for one another,  
for he is Lord, for ever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**First Week in Ordinary Time**  
**(Year 1)**

Celebrant:           The call by Jesus to the fishermen to follow him  
                          is repeated in every generation  
                          through the gift of baptism.

1.     May Pope Francis be granted a safe journey as he departs Rome tonight  
       for his pastoral visit to, first, Sri Lanka, and then the Philippines.  
       Let us pray to the Lord.
  
2.     May the Sri Lankan and Philippine nations, struggling with poverty,  
       political instability and corruption,  
       be greatly encouraged by the visit of Pope Francis.  
       Let us pray to the Lord.
  
3.     May we, who have been baptised into Christ,  
       follow him with a dynamic, lively faith.  
       Let us pray to the Lord.
  
4.     May those who struggle with the faith of their baptism  
       come to peace of heart through which they  
       have a better understanding of Jesus and his call.  
       Let us pray to the Lord.
  
5.     May children enjoy time with their families  
       during these school holidays,  
       contributing to their maturity and wisdom.  
       Let us pray to the Lord.
  
6.     May the people of South Australia and Victoria suffering from the  
       bushfires be able to encourage each other and receive the support they  
       need.  
       Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant:           Heavenly God, we offer here this thanksgiving sacrifice,  
                          knowing that all we are and have  
                          comes from your loving heart.  
                          Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**First Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: My friends, today Pope Francis arrives on Colombo, Sri Lanka, on his pastoral visit. We pray for him and the people of that nation who have emerged from a long and bitter civil war.

1. That the commitment of Pope Francis to the cause of peace will help heal the past divisions in Sri Lanka, and lead to a lasting reconciliation and justice for everyone, as he meets the President and Inter Religious leaders today.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
2. That Pope Francis, meeting with the Bishops of Sri Lanka today, will inspire them to work as one in the care of the poor and needy, and so reveal the compassionate face of Christ to their nation.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
3. That all people may be sanctified through Jesus Christ, the Sanctified One, who died and rose for the salvation of the world.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
4. That the task of rebuilding and strengthening communities across Asia following the tsunami of 10 years ago will continue in a good spirit.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
5. That children and our youth on holidays may find this a time to strengthen their family relationships as well as their friendships.  
Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Eternal King,  
our hearts rejoice in you  
for you are the source of life,  
and you will raise the dead to a glorious resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**First Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: Jesus in his healing revealed the love of God,  
and in his praying expressed his own love  
for the Father.

1. May the Canonisation today by Pope Francis, of Blessed Joseph Vaz, the Apostle of Sri Lanka, bring rich blessings to the Christians of Sri Lanka, and help them to be strong in their faith and generous in their love.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
2. May the visit of Pope Francis to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Madhu, Sri Lanka, help heal the divisions and suspicions still present among the people following the recent long Civil War.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
3. May we find in the humanity of Jesus, who shared our sufferings, a great consolation as so many struggle to make sense out of their own sufferings.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
4. May teachers find during the holidays the space to nourish their creative energies and human knowledge, and be personally refreshed, for the good of their students.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
5. May the violent fanaticism of terrorists around the world be tempered this year, so that they seek to dialogue with their perceived enemies for the good of all.  
Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord God,  
we place our trust in you,  
and dedicate ourselves through this Eucharist  
to living your holy will in our daily lives.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**First Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: My friends, on this day in 1842 Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne, and in 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta.

1. That the commitment which St Mary of the Cross and Martin Luther King Jr. made to liberate the poor of their time may continue to be strong in the life of the Church today.

Let us pray to the Lord.

2. That we, like St Mary of the Cross and Martin Luther King Jr. may believe the truth that good will always overcome all evil, for Jesus conquered sin and death through his cross.

Let us pray to the Lord.

3. That Pope Francis, leaving Sri Lanka this morning and arriving in the Philippines this afternoon, will be protected on his flight.

Let us pray to the Lord.

4. That in meeting the Civil Authorities and the Diplomatic Corp in Manila today, Pope Francis will highlight the dignity of public service for the good of citizens, remembering especially the needs of the poor, the homeless and the sick.

Let us pray to the Lord.

5. That people who are fearful may be reassured and comforted by the kindly touch of a family member or friend.

Let us pray to the Lord.

6. That those who have been blessed by God will offer their thanksgiving through prayer and the works of charity and justice.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord our God,  
do not abandon the poor of our time,  
but grace all people with the commitment to justice  
which will ensure dignity for everyone.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**  
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**First Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, Jesus came among us in order that all humanity could experience the forgiving love of God.

1. We pray for Pope Francis celebrating the Eucharist with the bishops, priests and religious of the Philippines this morning, that he will encourage them to live simple lives in total service of their people.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
  
- 2 We pray for families gathering with Pope Francis tonight in Manila in the Philippines, that the dignity of family life will be affirmed, parents deepen their love for each other and their children, and children grow with respect for their parents.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
  
3. We pray for those who carry the burden of sin that they may receive the merciful forgiveness of God.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
  
4. We pray for Catholics that they may rediscover the beauty and peace of the Sacrament of Penance  
Let us pray to the Lord.
  
5. We pray for a spirit of wonder and awe every time we see God at work in people's lives.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
  
- 6 We pray for those whose work is hard, difficult or dirty, that their contribution to the common good may not be taken for granted, but appreciated with gratitude.  
Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord our God, give us the faith to walk in the light of your Face, so that by living with justice we may rejoice in your holy Name.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**First Week of Ordinary Time**  
**St Antony of Egypt**

Celebrant: Dear friends, Jesus was born as Saviour of the world,  
and in his ministry extended to people  
the blessing of the Father's merciful love.

1. That as Pope Francis has lunch today in Paolo in the Philippines with the survivors of calamities, especially the typhoon of two years ago, we will all learn the lesson not to forget the sufferings of people, just because the media does not mention them any longer.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
2. That in blessing a new Centre for the Poor in Paolo, Pope Francis will help the whole Church around the world to have a preferential option for the poor.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
3. That this evening's meeting with priests, deacons and religious in Paolo will show again that service of others and not privilege for self lies at the heart of every vocation.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
4. That we may rejoice in the way God calls so many people to follow the way of Jesus in faith.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
5. That we may not give up on praying for the gift of faith for those who appear to live ungodly lives, since God loves all people.  
Let us pray to the Lord.
6. That St Antony of Egypt will intercede for people with skin diseases, those who weave baskets and those who care for domestic pets.  
Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Hear our prayer, almighty God,  
for we bring our hopes and needs to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.