**Prayer of the Faithful**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**21st April 2024**

**Introduction**

Dear friends, our Good Shepherd Jesus has laid open the way to a life of grace and glory. Following his example, let us embrace the world with love as we pray.

**Petitions**

1. We pray for Pope Francis and the leaders of our Church. May they always strive to be good shepherds to the people of God and share the call to be a synodal Church with love and generosity. Lord hear us.
2. We pray on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations for the Christian life in its many forms. May all the baptised grow in knowledge of their role as priest and prophet and that those called to the sacrament of Holy Orders be imbued with the spirit of service and humility. Lord hear us.
3. We pray for aid workers and peace negotiators in every place of brutal bloodshed, that their combined efforts will bring relief to those who are overwhelmed with pain and misery. Lord hear us.
4. We pray for the people injured in the recent stabbings in Sydney. May they, those who assisted victims, the first responders and all traumatised by those events receive the healing and support which they need. Lord hear us.
5. We pray for our Diocese of Armidale, that we will soon be blessed with a new Bishop, a wise and compassionate shepherd for our people. Lord hear us.
6. We pray for the people of Australia and New Zealand, that this week’s ANZAC Day services will draw everyone together in remembrance, reconciliation and hope. Lord hear us.

**Conclusion**

God of mercy and kindness, we offer all these needs and those silent in our hearts, knowing in faith that you will answer them through the power of the Spirit and in the name of the risen Lord. Amen