

The response to *Lord who equips us for service and sends us, is in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

We bring to mind the many areas of the world experiencing hardship through hostility, tempest and fire. We pray for all who are seeking to bring peace to our troubled world. Open their hearts and minds to your gentle but quiet presence. We pray for all who have been displaced by earthquake, wind, hurricane, typhoons and fire. Give encouragement to them, and courage to all who are assisting in recovery.

Lord who equips us for service and sends, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You called your servant Esther to the streets and lanes of Melbourne. May we, like her, show love and compassion rather than demanding conversion through fear; be resilient in our prayers; and work together as one in showing the love of your gospel in our thoughts, words and deeds. We pray for the Community of the Holy Name. As they prepare to move into their new house and ventures, bless Bishop Garry, Warden, Mother Carol, and all the sisters of the Community.

Lord who equips us for service and sends, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you impel us to look into the streets and lanes. We acknowledge that there is much still to be done. In focus of prayer, we pray for those caught up in the drug storms of North Richmond. We pray for informed and reflective dialogue about the need for not only safety for those caught up in substance abuse, but the wider community. May we look past petty differences about dates and times, and grapple, as one, with the world in which we live.

Lord who equips us for service and sends, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Man of Sorrows, we are sorry for all that has been done in your name that does not hit the mark of compassion, respect and dignity. We acknowledge in this city the Wurrundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. We commend their elders, living and past, to your care and protection. We join with our General Synod in apologising to the LGBTi community for past indiscretions. In this time of on going debate, keep us fixed on the issues that promote love, and be strong in our advocacy against fear.

Lord who equips us for service and sends, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teacher and Healer, hear our prayers for those who are close to our hearts; those for whom our prayers have been asked; and those who are feeling lonely and isolated, unable to reach out for help. Shortly, we will place those names on the altar: deal kindly with them, Jesus, and send your Holy Spirit to those who are assisting in any way.  
We name in our hearts those who are near to us.

We also continually commend David Paulin to your loving care and protection.

Lord who equips us for service and sends, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you, Creator God for the gift of life, and our opportunity, no matter where we are called, to share this wisely with our neighbours. We give you thanks today for the life of June Gillard. Rest eternal grant to her, Lord **and let light perpetual shine upon her.**

We also give you thanks for the saints that inspire us: Stephen our Patron, Mother Esther of the Community of the Holy Name, Mary, Mother of our Lord, and all your saints.

May we, with their collective voices offer to you our heart felt prayers and praise as we say:

**Teach us, Lord  
to ground our daily work in love for you  
so that what we do is not barren or of little blue  
but rather, rich and fertile,  
prepared for the glory of your kingdom to come,  
whose future is in your hands and your love for us.  
This we pray in your most Holy Name. Amen.**