

Shine your light on our lives

Leader: As we come together as the pastoral council of this parish/pastoral area, we place ourselves in the presence of our God.....as we light a candle [*candle is now lit by another member and placed in the centre of the group*], we are reminded of Jesus' promise to us, that he is the Light of the World.....for a moment now, we ask what this means for our parish today..... *PAUSE*

Leader: Lord, you are the light of the world

All: **Shine your light on our lives**

Leader: Lord, you are the light of the world

All: **Shine your light on our talking and planning**

Leader: Lord you are the light of the world

All: **Make us beacons of your light in the world** *PAUSE*

Leader: We open our hearts to hear the Word of God for us today

Scripture Reading - Romans 5:1-5

Reader: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

PAUSE

Reader: We take a moment to reflect on where hope is in our lives today?....what are my hopes for my life? *PAUSE*

As a pastoral council, we take a moment to reflect on how can we offer hope to people in our parish community? *PAUSE*

Leader: Aware that we are called to be the sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, we now present the prayers of our hearts on behalf of our community..... [*LET PEOPLE OFFER THEIR PETITIONS E.G. FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK, FOR YOUNG PEOPLE*].....We offer these prayers and all the need of our world, as we pray together to our Father in heaven, Our Father.....

Leader: Loving God,
you are with us in our coming and goings,
you are with us in dark times and in the light-filled moments.
Shine your light of love and hope on our parish community,
and draw us ever closer to you.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**