

Prayer of the Church- Epiphany 3, Year A

Jesus is here to receive our prayers and make them holy and acceptable to our heavenly Father, so let us pray to him.

Lord Jesus Christ, We thank you for so graciously addressing us, and for all that you've done to bring forgiveness and new life to us. Forgive us our many sins, purify our lives, and help us to hear your call us to follow you in faith-filled repentance and devotion.

Christ, be our Light: **shine in the church, shine in the world.**

We pray for this land of Australia. Thank you for the abundant blessings you shower on us here. Graciously protect us from fire and flood, from war and disease, from famine and strife, and from every kind of disaster. Draw all Australians into the radiance of your light, so that we may properly care for and use the resources of this wonderful country.

Christ, be our Light: **shine in the church, shine in the world.**

Thank you for the blessings of good government and civil peace. We commend to you our King, Charles III, our Prime Minister *Anthony Albanese*, and our Premier *Peter Malinauskas*. Help all in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Give our leaders wisdom and compassion in policy regarding refugees. Draw us into the radiance of your light, so that we may be obedient to proper authority.

Christ, be our Light: **shine in the church, shine in the world.**

Support all people in their proper vocation, dear Lord, and help all those who are unemployed. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Draw us all into the radiance of your light, so that we may each give faithful service to you in our various callings.

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We pray for the churches in Australia. Keep your people true to your word, regular in the use of the means of grace, and genuine in repentance and renewal. Where there is error correct it, and bring the churches to unity in you. Draw us into the radiance of your light, so that we may give a clear witness to you in this land.

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Have mercy, Lord, on those suffering in shadows of darkness and caught in the traps of sin and death. Shine on them with your grace and peace. Give health and strength to all we know to be in need, and whom we now name silently in our hearts...

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Lord Jesus, thank you for Andrew, Peter, James and John, and for your disciples of every generation who have heard your call, left everything, and followed you. Hear our prayers and join them with your own petitions to our dear heavenly Father on our behalf, for together with him and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**