



**31 December 2023 (Midnight
Mass)
01 January 2023 (New Year Day)**



INTRODUCTION:

Today's Feast of "Mary, Mother of God" is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. May the Lord Jesus and his mother Mary enrich our lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: At the beginning of the New Year, we turn to God our Father, through the intercession of Mary humbly asking for our needs and the needs of the world.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

For the Church: that in this coming year all who follow Christ will be more courageous in their witness to the faith and united in their discipleship of the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**

For an end to hatred in our world. May the darkness of racism, homophobia, religious divisions, wars, and every violence be brought into the light of faith, trust, and peace. **Lord, hear us.**

For all in our community who will receive the sacraments this coming year; may the grace of the sacraments and the power of the Holy Spirit transform them into the image of Christ. **Lord, hear us.**

For all mothers, that they may find in Mary, the mother of God a model of profound humility, lively faith, patience, wisdom, trust, and joy. **Lord, hear us.**

For all who are sick: those in hospital, those living with life-limiting illnesses or conditions, and those sick at home. Accompany them in times of trial and bless them with the gift of wholeness and healing. **Lord, hear us.**

Celebrant: Lord our God, you draw near to us in the Christ-child born of the Virgin Mary. Open our hearts and minds to the many blessings you offer in this New Year. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.