



**ANTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
LORETO MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP TEAM
PRAYER
7 March 2019**

Reader 1: Lord, make me an instrument of peace:

Cate: Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to their communities, their homes and workplaces. May the gifts of all women and men be used to build God's kingdom on earth.

Reader 1: Where there is hatred, let me sow love:

Patricia: We pray for all women who face prejudice and inequality. Help us to see and name discrimination against women in the many forms it may take. May our work for justice bring balance, equity and harmony to our world.

Reader 1: Where there is injury, pardon:

Alison: Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. May the practical and prayerful support of people of good will empower women to move

forward on the road to life in all its fulness.

Reader 1: Where there is division, unity:

Paul: Forgive all women and men who let differences breed disunity and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.

Reader 1: Where there is darkness, light;

Cate: May all members of the Loreto network: students, staff, parents, board members and past pupils use their gifts with courage to celebrate all that is good and whole and true. In our words, deeds and decisions may we shine light into the dark places of our world.

Reader 1: Where there is doubt, true faith:

Patricia: In this Loreto Schools Year of Sincerity, may we follow the example of Mary Ward, who trusted in God and discerned the way forward with freedom, justice and integrity.

Reader 1: Where there is despair, hope:

Alison: We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope. As we celebrate International Women's Day may our small efforts open up new possibilities for girls and women around our world, especially those supported by Mary Ward International Australia projects.

Reader 1: Where there is sadness, new joy:

Paul: Help us to see the strength and goodness in all women and men.
Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people.

Anne: And may we be blessed with the courage of Mary Ward, Gonzaga Barry and all Loreto leaders to follow our own path of love for you, O God, and all sisters and brothers.

We make this and all our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen