3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B January 24th

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa. A very warm welcome to everyone. Today is the third Sunday of Ordinary Time and it is Word of God Sunday – a day on which we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with Jewish people and pray for Christian unity. We are called together now as the people of God. Through our participation and the action of the Holy Spirit in this liturgy, we are formed as the Body of Christ. In this way we are made ready to follow Christ in all we do, and imitate Christ in our lives. To participate fully in this liturgy, let us prepare by being silent for a few moments. **(20 … seconds - stay at microphone).** Welcome to ……………………… (*parish name*). Let us make our unity clear by standing and singing together.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that, by our lives, we give witness that ‘the kingdom of God has come near,’ and that we who are the Church, follow the Way of Jesus in all that we do.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For community, national and international leaders –** that in this year, 2021, leaders will strive to address injustices relating to race, gender, poverty, human slavery and climate change.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For Christian unity on this Word of God Sunday –** that we continually open ourselves to hear the Word of God and seek unity with all people who are hearers of the Word.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For healing from covid-19 and other diseases –** that vaccinations, medical supplies and hospital care will be available to people who live in poverty and all whose lives are vulnerable or precarious.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For families** – that homes will be places of peace, free from violence and aggression, places where children are encouraged to recognise and develop their own talents, and learn to respect the talents of others.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For all teachers and educators** – that their work of educating, will enrich and bless their own lives, and that their preparation will ensure that those in their care have rich opportunity to learn and grow.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For our local community of**………………….. That\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please add a prayer for your local community.

(Silence) **Reader:** (sung) Lord hear us. **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Concluding Prayer**

Give us, O Lord, the gift of a strong faith so that like Simon Peter and Andrew, we may respond to your call with generosity, honesty and courage. We ask this We ask this through … **Amen**