2nd Sunday of Easter| Year A **16th April**

**Welcome before Mass**:

Kia ora,

Today is the second Sunday of Easter, and Divine Mercy Sunday. Our rejoicing continues because our Saviour is risen. Jesus comes among us as one bringing peace. May our eyes be opened in faith, may the spirit be awakened in us and may we rejoice with one another. You are welcome here today as we celebrate this wonderful time in the Christian calendar.

Let us gather our collective prayers and enter into a time of short silence.

(10 seconds of silence). Let us stand and sing together the entrance hymn.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that we who are the Church will be an instrument of peace, and an agent of reconciliation to all people. (Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For leaders of nations** – that global leaders will strive to establish peace among all peoples and all nations.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For the newly baptised** – that they will be supported, affirmed and encouraged by their parish or faith community, their faith nourished, and the promise of baptism brought to life in them.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For those who are finding this Easter a difficult time** – that they may soon live in peace and receive the necessary help, particularly for those in places of war and extreme weather conditions.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For people without adequate housing** – that we who are Christian will work to ensure everybody is accommodated in affordable homes that are warm and dry.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

**For our local community of … (What are the needs of your locality – housing, health, truancy, an accident… Please discern the needs of your locality and compose a petition.)**

**Concluding Prayer**

Strengthen our faith, O God, in the power of your merciful love, that brings forth life from death, and grant that in faith and love we may too confess Jesus, your Son, as our living Lord and God, who lives with you and Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen**.