Easter Sunday | Year A **9th April**

**Welcome before Mass**:

Kia ora,

Ata Marie! Alleluia! We gather, and we rejoice! We gather here today to hear and celebrate the story. Our story, the story of Jesus who suffered and who died, but is now risen. We rejoice because this life is shared with all of us – we have been raised with Christ. You are most welcome here today, whether visitors or locals, grandparents or grandchildren, single or in the midst of family – welcome.

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 it may resound with a sense of joy on this Easter Day.

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

**For leaders of nations** – that joy and justice, love and peace, triumph over preoccupations with power and control, money, and wealth.

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

**For all people throughout the world** – that this Easter day would be a day of peace and hope, of reconciliation and working together, of unity and joy for the whole of humanity.

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

**For travellers** – that those who travel will do so with a sense of respect and appreciation for the people and places they visit, and that they will be open to the divine presence in all their encounters.

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

**For all who grieve** – that their mourning will be turned to dancing as they hear, hold, and welcome the message of the resurrection in their hearts.

(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**

O God, in the midst of fear, doubt and uncertainty, we seek the Spirit’s gift of peace that calms all anxious hearts and fills our spirits with joy, that our lives may radiate faith, hope and love to a world darkened by sickness and death. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.