21st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year C |24th August

**Welcome before Mass**

**Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Good morning and welcome. Today we are reminded once again that the last will be first and the first last. Let us remember as we gather here this morning, that we are servants of one another, and that once Mass is finished today, we take our servanthood out into the community to serve those we meet. We come together today hearing that call, to be a servant of one another, forming one body, one people. In preparation for the celebration of this liturgy, let’s now take a moment of silence.**

A moment of silence.

**Together now, we join and sing our opening hymn.**

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church – that we learn to walk together, build bonds of friendship, love and understanding among ourselves and with people of other Christian denominations.**

V. **E te Ariki** R. whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou | V. **We pray to the Lord** R. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For leaders of nations – that they seek not power over people, but power that enables fullness of life for all people, especially those in the poorest and most volatile nations.**

V. **E te Ariki** R. whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou | V. **We pray to the Lord** R. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For the Auckland Diocese – that as we embark on this process of *Reshaping* to discern for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming.**

V. **E te Ariki** R. whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou | V. **We pray to the Lord** R. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For young people discerning their paths in life – that they may recognize their talents and be guided to careers that bring fulfilment and serve others. Let us pray to the Lord**

V. **E te Ariki** R. whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou | V. **We pray to the Lord** R. Lord, hear our prayer.

**For refugees and migrants – that they find a spirit of openness, welcome and hospitality in the new places they must learn to call home.**

V. **E te Ariki** R. whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou | V. **We pray to the Lord** R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

**Concluding Prayer**

**God of holiness, as you receive our prayers,**

**welcome us to your table with all your holy ones.**

**Let us share your feast of life and love,**

**both now and for ever.** R. Amen.