23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year C |7th September

**Welcome before Mass**

**Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Good morning and welcome. We are asked this morning, ‘who traced out the heavens, and who can give God counsel?’ We come together then, in a spirit of humility, knowing that we can do nothing without God, and yet, also, in a spirit of hospitality and warm welcome, knowing that it is God’s abundant love that draws us here. Today is the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary time, the beginning of Social Justice Week, and the first week in the Season of Creation. 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 strive to reach out to family, friends and neighbours, and create a new dialogue about how we are shaping the planet.**

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 develop a deep respect for the riches of the earth, accepting their responsibility of care for creation and adopting a mandate to use Earth’s resources sustainably.**

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 people who suffer from racial discrimination or prejudice – that a spirit of compassion and humility will awaken in us, and in all people, which can build bonds of love and fellowship between all peoples.**

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

**For species threatened with extinction by climate change – that conservation efforts be intensified and the planet’s biodiversity protected.**

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**

**Lord, your Holy Spirit guides us on the path of discipleship.**

**By our prayers, renew the power of that Spirit in every heart,**

**so that we may judge wisely the things of earth and love the things of heaven.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.** R. Amen.