**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we rejoice at the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, we turn with confidence to God our Father praying that the peace and light which Christ brings will be welcomed into the world.

1. We pray for the Church, its ministers, and its people. Like Eli who guided Samuel to the Lord, may they faithfully offer the teaching, guidance and encouragement which draws others to the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For a discerning spirit: that like Samuel we may listen attentively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in all things, and respond in openness, humility and generosity. **Lord, hear us.**
3. *‘Look, there is the Lamb of God!*’ We pray for the work of the Eucharistic Adoration Apostolate in our Diocese. Deepen our love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and help us recognise Him in the breaking of the bread. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For vocations to priesthood and religious life. Inspire men and women to listen to the presence of God in their daily lives and respond positively to the Lord’s invitation to ‘come and see’. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For those who do not recognise Christ in their midst, that their eyes and hearts may be opened by the grace of God, to the truth of the Gospel and the ministry of the Church. **Lord, hear us.**
6. As we begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for all who profess their faith in Jesus Christ. May they never lose sight of Christ’s desire that they all be one. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For all who are sick, the house-bound, the hospitalised and lonely; lay your healing hand upon them. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For all who have died; that God who delivered Jesus from death will raise them to the fullness of life with Him. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Gracious God, we ask you to hear our prayers and grant us all that is in accord with your will for us. We ask this through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen**.