**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As the Lord listens, has ‘*pity’*, and ‘*comes to our help’*, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

1. As we await the election of a new pope, we pray with confidence and unity that God will raise up a shepherd after His own heart to be Christ’s Vicar on earth. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For those who suffer ‘*humiliation’* for ‘*the sake of the name’*. Bless them with an outpouring of your grace, that they may witness to Christ in what they say and do. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For healing and ‘*forgiveness’* between nations at war. Open the minds and hearts of leaders and people that they may see beyond the boundaries of race, religion and borders and pursue the paths of true and lasting peace. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For vocations to the priesthood and religious life: like the apostles who said, “We’ll come with you”, help young people to know, love and generously serve you. **Lord, hear us.**
5. We pray for all who earn their living from the sea. As we benefit from their hard work and labour, may we also share in the responsibility for its preservation. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For the grace to recognise Christ as ‘*the Lord’* and to declare our love for him as the Good Shepherd. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For the elderly, those who are unable to care for themselves and are taken ‘*to where [they] would rather not go*’. May they always receive honour and respect, patience and compassion from those charged with their care. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For those who are hungry, homeless or suffering: that their daily cries for bread may inspire in us works of compassion and mercy. **Lord, hear us.**
9. For our own parish community, that we will always be signs of reconciliation and hope for others. **Lord, hear us.**
10. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we pray for those who have died; may Christ receive those who hoped in him into the joys of eternal life. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, give us the grace to live to the full the new life you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**