

## Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **Celebrant:**

Nourished by our faith in God's word, we bring our prayers to our heavenly Father.

1. For the Church: may it always model the mercy and compassion of God in the ways it reaches out to those on the margins of the church and society. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For the children and young people of our parish as they return to school and college: may their hearts and minds be opened to the adventure of new friends and new learning. **Lord, hear us.**
3. *'You have been our refuge from one generation to the next'*. We pray for all seeking refuge as they flee from conflict, persecution, oppression and exploitation. May they experience understanding, respect and compassion. **Lord, hear us.**
4. We pray for the elderly. Like St. Paul in his old age, may their steadfast practice of faith, the wisdom of their years, and their interior strength reflect the contentment of their lives. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For those in search of adequate housing: may resources become available to support the construction industry in creating sustainable, affordable housing. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For nations at war: may they exhaust every means of diplomacy *'to sue for peace'*. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For those who follow the Lord as they carry the cross of illness, separation, loneliness, or bereavement; may they know God's closeness and healing love. **Lord, hear us.**

**8.** As we begin the ‘Season of Creation’, we give thanks for the gift of the earth, our common home. Deepen our resolve in taking radical steps to tackle climate change. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:**

God of all creation, you call the Church to keep watch in the world and to discern the signs of the times. Help us complete the work you have set before us. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**