**Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** Jesus makes it clear in today’s Gospel that the cross is part of the Christian life. We pray:-

1. We pray for the Church and its leaders, may it continue to preach the Gospel of Christ and inspire all people to follow Christ. **Lord, hear us.**
2. It is in God’s very nature to bless and protect, we pray for a renewed effort on behalf of all society to protect and nurture all children. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For those travelling from our Diocese on pilgrimage to Lourdes this week; may their retreat from the busyness of their everyday lives draw them closer to the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**
4. We pray for all in our parish, that we may increase in faith, hope and love. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For all who suffer around the world because of their faith, may they be strengthened by the Lord and granted freedom to worship. **Lord, hear us.**
6. May we always believe the cross is not an end in itself, but a way to a new life with the Lord in Heaven. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For all our dead, who we remember every Sunday, may they share in Christ’s victory over death. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Father, give us the joy of serving you and bearing all things with a generous heart. Through Christ our Lord, **Amen**.