**Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** In prayer, we turn to our God who never fails to listen to our needs.

1. We pray for our Diocese and the many pilgrims traveling ‘in procession’ to Lourdes this week. Renew and strengthen their faith through the living waters of Lourdes. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For our country and our many communities: may we always model the mercy and compassion of God in the ways we treat our people. **Lord, hear us.**
3. As Jesus loosened the ligament of the man whose speech was impaired, we pray that all Christians may courageously speak out against injustice, the exploitation of creation, racism, war, and discrimination. **Lord, hear us.**
4. We pray for all who are in danger of losing their eyesight or hearing through injury, age or illness, and those unable to obtain medical care to save their vision. In the midst of their fears and suffering, lay your healing hand upon them. **Lord, hear us.**
5. ‘Courage! Do not be afraid.’ For all who are sick or suffering, burdened or bereaved, that they will experience the healing love of God in their lives. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For the poor, the homeless, the refugee, and those without food. May our parishes be places of welcome and compassion where rich and poor alike are recognised as beloved by God. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For those who have died; may they share in the generous love of the Lord who lived, died and rose from the dead. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** God of mercy and compassion, may our ears be open to receive your word and our mouths to proclaim our faith. Hear our prayers, that we might be a sign of your blessings to all whom we meet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**