**Canticle for Pauatahanui**

Blessed are you Creator God.

You have set the islands of Aotearoa, New Zealand

like an emerald in the South Pacific.

Blessed are you God of this nation.

You have established a pilgrim people

on the mountains, plains and seashore of this land,

nurturing us with your abundant gifts

a fertile land, flowing with fresh water, abundant pasture and prodigious flocks and herds.

Blessed are you Lord of the Church.

For you have sustained us as we formed communities of faithful disciples

scattering the seed of the Gospel

serving our neighbours

singing your praises

and especially we thank you for the people of Pauatahanui.

We remember with thanks giving

those who have gone before us in this place

built places of worship to your glory

poured out their resources and energy in faithful witness

and so laid foundations for future ministry.

Blessed are you Lord, Holy Spirit

who in guiding our footsteps

gives us the courage to face new challenges

shape new visions

try new answers to old questions.

In this faith we call on your promise to be with us always

trusting in your constant grace,

your boundless love and hope

and infinite patience.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.