Discipleship turns our modern value system on its head. Yet we, like the disciples, have difficulty seeing that. We continue to debate popularity, count twitter and Facebook friends, and admire those with power and authority. But in today’s gospel we are reminded to consider those who have little standing in the world.

The parent’s love for a child is a true reflection of Christian love and service. The parent does not count the cost of late nights, extra food on the table, additional expenses, or the anxiety that can naturally come with a child. Instead, motivated by love, the parent moves beyond oneself to care for another. We are called by Jesus to behave in like manner to others. We do not treat them as children, but we are to serve without counting the cost, to give without expecting anything in return.

Often both in antiquity and in the modern world relationships are governed by a mutual beneficence, or more crassly, favour trading. Laws have been established to prevent the most egregious forms of this behaviour, but it happens nonetheless at multiple levels. Though we are in the midst of the world, Christians are to have a different standard. Christians are to be of service. This kind of action may seem out of place. The maxim “Nice guys finish last” has more than a ring of truth to it. But Jesus reminds us today, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and servant of all.”

This message is difficult to hear and more difficult to follow. For most of us these are not the values we see lived every day. But by enacting them we bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

Living Liturgy© 2018

Today is our Family Mass. Please join us for a cuppa afterwards.

Parish Finance Committee meet this Wednesday 26th September at 5.30pm in the meeting room.

Little Company of Mary next meeting Monday 1st October at 2pm in the church. All welcome.

Parish Prayer Circle. If you have a prayer intention that you like prayed for leave your message in the Prayer Circle box in the leave a phone message with Sue 27484635.

Pope’s Prayer Intention for September. That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own Countries.

We remember those who have died recently especially: Zeala McCann, Dot Miers, Patrick Myers & Ian Houghton.

We remember those who have died over the last 5 years in September: Gavin Mannix, Ethel Fevre, Jo Sturzaker, Josephine O’Dowd, Helma Wright, Richard Roberts, Hugh Cunningham, Louis Hickman, Margaret Landers, Joan Browning, Josephine Dombroski & Bruce Cudby.

Mass has been requested Dot Miers and Wayne Railton (Ann). May they rest in peace.

SISTER CHARLES VICKERS

Many parishioners will remember Sr Charles who taught at St Joseph’s, Hawera, from 1930 until her death in December 1958. Recently the Sisters of St Joseph have erected a new headstone on her grave in the Hawera Cemetery and this will be blessed at 2.00pm on Sunday October 7th. This day has been chosen as it the anniversary of the death of Fr Julian Tenison Woods the co founder with St Mary MacKillop of the Sisters of St Joseph. Several of the Sisters will be coming up from Whanganui for this event and we invite parishioners to join us at the cemetery and afterwards for a cuppa at the church.

FUNDING

The Diocese of Palmerston North, in conjunction with the Catholic Charities Foundation of Palmerston North, the Tindall Foundation and Catholic Social Services, is seeking applications from parish groups, agencies and Church organisations. We are looking for new applications that support families and social services in the areas of early years, youth development, budgeting, literacy, Maori/cross-cultural, housing, and community service and development. Application forms and criteria for funding are available from the parish office or the Diocesan Office, Private Bag 11012, Palmerston North – Attention: Mrs Wendy Silver, telephone 06 354 1780 ext 833, email wsilver@pndiocese.org.nz or
you can download a copy of the application form from the diocesan website https://pndiocese.org.nz/news-and-events/application-for-funding/

Applications are to be sent to reach the Diocesan Office by 30 September 2018. Allocations will be made on 7 November 2018.

The Parish Council are looking for any photos of the building of the new St Joseph’s church, here in Hawera, as we will be celebrating 25 years of its opening later this year and would be grateful to borrow them for display.

Hawera Genealogy Annual Book Fair 4th – 6th October 2018 St Joseph’s Hall.
8.30-7pm Thursday, 8.30-6pm Friday, 9-2pm Saturday. If you have books for collection ph 2784292 or 2784344. These can also be left at the Genealogy Rooms Union St Wednesday afternoons. Don’t forget to bring a bag for your books.

Labour Weekend Sunday 21st October 2pm St Andrew's Liardet St.NP
$15 door sales includes Hymn Booklet Come to sing (in English) well-known Hymns to Welsh tunes with Taranaki Male Choir + Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir and support from Melbourne Welsh Church. Conductor from Wales. Come Sing to the Lord!

Oberammergau Passion Play 2020- The Travel Warehouse. Several different tours available. A DVD featuring the village of Oberammergau and the story and work behind the play is available at the office.

DIACONATE ORDINATION INVITATION Holy Cross Seminary and the Catholic Dioceses of Auckland, Palmerston North and Hamilton joyfully invite you to the Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons of Martin Wu, Vui Hoang and Matthew Gilson 10.30am, Saturday 29th September 2018 Sacred Heart Church, Vermont Street, Ponsonby, Auckland

Pro Life Facts Sidewalk counselling near abortion clinics is a hot issue with buffer zones legislated in some Australian states. Abortion-rights advocates want them in NZ, but in Britain the new Home Secretary Sajid Javid has resisted such calls after investigations found the counsellors were peaceful and helped women. For more pro-life information, visit the Voice for Life website at www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

Available at the Parish Office – Mission Centre this week
Mass Cards – for intentions & sympathy, First Communion Cards, Baptism Cards, Children’s Bibles, Adult Bibles, Baptism Candles, Frames, medals.
First Communion Gifts. 9-12 daily.