

A CARING PEOPLE

FOCUS:

The readings for this month focus so strongly on the direct link between our faith, our knowledge of our own weakness, and the call to act with justice. It is easy at times to believe that the call to aid is answered by \$10.



A gentle reflection on the readings tells us that it is in the way we respond in the workplace and in the home, the way in which our eyes are open to the "Lazarus in our midst", that our true faith is revealed.

The call is to be a caring people. But to be a caring person we have to put our self in the company of those who are in need. We cannot meet the afflicted; we cannot visit the sick, when we remain sitting in front of Sky!!

Are we like the rich man as we comfortably sit at the table with our rich and comfortable food, the SKY decoder, the 60 inch screen, and the Ford Ranger (so that we can avoid helping our neighbour on the weekend!!)? Do these "things" stop us getting up and looking for the one in need? The call of the gospel says we, like the father in the story of the prodigal son, have to take the first step. We must get up and go out to: welcome, see from afar, run toward the other, embrace, feed, clothe, and be an advocate and all done in the face of those who don't think this type of love is just! (the older brother of the parable).

Suggested September Focus:

Corporal Works:
Visit the Sick

Spiritual Works:
*Comfort the
Afflicted*

2 months to go: the doors of mercy await everybody....

The Cathedral has been seeing a growing stream of pilgrims and pilgrimages being organised for the year of Jubilee. Individuals, classes, parishes, ethnic groups and youth groups have been finding their way to the Cathedral, entering the holy door and praying and meditating. It has been and is fantastic.

Is it time for you to organise a special pilgrimage of those people who normally wouldn't experience something of this type? Focus on the call to welcome the stranger and invite people now!

*Contact the Cathedral on 06 357 2891 to book a time
or visit www.pncathedral.org.nz*



JUBILEE OF MERCY
Dec 2015 – Nov 2016



Diocese of
Palmerston North

September Events

- it is social justice week on September 17/18. This year's focus is on the migrant: "welcome the stranger"
- the year of mercy finishes on the feast of Christ the King. It is time to start preparing for our final acts and celebrations as a parish/school/college

Links to Resources

www.pndiocese.org.nz/mercy

The Diocesan site with many resources for prayer and ideas for action, dates and how to make a pilgrimage. There is also a link to the Jesuit website with ideas on the Spiritual works of Mercy

www.catholic.org.nz [Click "Bishops' Statements" on Home Page]

Links to all the NZ Bishops' Statements including "Be Merciful".

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Week ending September 04:

For the last months we have been taking on the "way of mercy". Today's readings remind us that there is a cost and we are called to be conscious of what we are doing and to "knowingly" take on the cost of helping our brothers and sisters in need and following the way of the Lord. We will do this because of the witness of our brothers and sisters, especially those who have walked the way for long years ahead of us says the second reading! Let us take up our cross willingly and generously!

Week ending September 11:

Today's beautiful readings may be familiar to us but let us listen very carefully and see that the one thing we have in common is that we are sinners, but not just sinners - we are "forgiven sinners", welcomed back by a generous and loving God into the embrace of the family. None of us are excluded, all of us are welcome.

Week ending September 18:

This week is social justice week, and the readings appropriately tell us that it is in our daily life, our commercial dealings, the wages we offer, the hours we offer in exchange for the wages we receive, that we live our Christian life. The call is to love the Lord your God and to live justly!

Week ending September 25:

The readings this month have shown us the direct link between our faith life and our decisions in particular in respect of the poor and those in need. This is not just about those living in the next street, though that is where we normally act, we are called to live as citizens of the world where 60% of humanity is sitting as Lazarus asking us for food from our rich people's table.



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