

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Serving the people of South Taranaki in Hawera, Normanby and Manaia



*24th Sunday Ordinary Time Year A
13th September 2020*

LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

In today's Gospel Peter asks Jesus, how many times a person should forgive. Peter is looking for a concrete number but for Jesus, there is no limit. There is no limit on the number of times we have to forgive someone who has sinned against us. This Gospel story only makes sense, if we acknowledge and accept the connection between forgiveness and love. Refusing to forgive is refusing to love, and it is never acceptable not to love. There is however a difference between forgiving someone and enabling them to continue in their wrongdoing. Love by its nature only seeks the good of another. A person who forgives a sinner, loves that sinner; and because they love the other, they have a heart for the other person's good. Having said this, a person who continues to allow another person to hurt them is not forgiving them. Just the opposite. They are enabling the other to continue and perhaps even, get worse. There is nothing loving about enabling abuse.

As an example, if a woman is being hurt by her husband, she is called to keep loving him by forgiving him and seeking his well-being or good. For his part, being a free human being he can either choose to accept her love or reject it. If he chooses to accept her love, he must change his behaviour and stop hurting her. If he chooses to reject his wife's love, her forgiveness is like a gift that is rejected. The best she can do for him is to separate herself from harm, so that he doesn't get worse by continuing to hurt her.



Because God loves every person, God offers the good to everyone too, no matter what that person's sins may be. God does not keep a careful distance from us when we sin. What stands between us and God is only our own unwillingness to receive the gift God is offering. It is only when we choose to accept gift of God's love and forgiveness that we can receive it.

PARISH INFORMATION

St Joseph's Church 38 Victoria St Hawera
Sacred Heart Church 43 Ngatai St Manaia
Mission Centre (parish and school office)
Little Regent St behind the church
Postal Address Box 488 Hawera 4640
Email stjoshw@xtra.co.nz

Website <https://stjosephshawera.weebly.com>

(Office Hours Mon - Fri 9.00am - 12.00noon)

Parish Secretary Patrea Clement 06 278 5656
Parish Priest Craig Butler Mob 021 272 4401 (24hrs)

SUNDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday	19/9	5.00pm	Sacred Heart Manaia
Sunday	20/9	9.30am	St Joseph's Hawera
Sunday	4/10	11.15am	Hoani Papita Marae

WEEKDAY MASS TIMETABLE

Monday	9.00am	Communion Service
Tuesday	9.00am	Mass
Wednesday	9.00am	Mass
Thursday	9.00am	Mass
Friday	9.00am	Mass

SACRAMENT RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 11.00am, or any time by appointment

OLDER CHILDREN'S BAPTISM: Please pray for those preparing to be welcomed into our Parish Family next Sunday.

THANK YOU- To the Parishioners of St Joseph's. Thank you so much for offering prayers for my dear husband Gerard on the anniversary of his death. It is acts such as that, that help give strength to cope. My very kind regards.
Gail Kissick.

ROSTERS: There are still rosters to be picked up. A new lot will be out in early October.

PARISH COUNCIL meet this Wednesday 16th September 16th September 2020 at 5.30pm in Mission Centre.

No Annie Brydon Service this Thursday 17th September.

CHURCH GARDENS- We have a small group of older parishioners who keep our Parish Gardens looking beautiful. Our next working bee will be this Wednesday at 1.30pm. Could you spare an hour to help? We urgently need some more helpers for this ministry.

COVID 19 Level 2 Rules – If you are unwell stay home. Sanitise and sign in on entry. The QR code is available. Avoid shaking hands at sign of peace. Holy Communion is only under one kind – the Body of Christ. Communion is only distributed in the hand. If restrictions go on for longer, and Mass numbers increase greatly we may have to looking at a booking system.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2020-Shoebboxes are destined for Cambodia, Fiji, Papa New Guinea and The Philippines. If you wish to support this cause, shoe boxes are available in the Church Foyer or from the Mission Centre. Closing date is 31st October.

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

With the Covid-19 lockdown in NZ the Good Friday collection was postponed. The ancient, but fragile Christian communities in **Jerusalem** and **the Holy Land** face harassment yet they remain courageous in their worship and charity. The Good Friday collection supports them and their schools, health clinics, community sports facilities, and church upkeep. Scholarships are also provided for Bethlehem University (for Christians and Muslims) the Chancellor of which is De La Salle Brother Peter Bray (FDMG old-boy) originally from Waitara, Taranaki. The greatly suffering Catholic communities of **Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Iran** will also be recipients of our Good Friday collection. Last year our Diocese collected a very generous \$21,538 for which we have received a thank you letter from the Holy Land Commissariat. Our prayers for peace in the region are also much appreciated. To learn about the work of the Franciscans in this region visit:

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. **If you have not given to this collection please use your Planned Giving Special Envelope or one of the plain envelopes marked Holy Places and hand them in next Sunday Also, please add your name should you wish a receipt.** *Mons Brian Walsh*

Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum:

- The End of Life Choice Act is not an option of 'last resort'. It will not just apply to the 'exceptionally difficult cases'. It does not require that a person first make use of available treatments or counselling, nor that they first receive palliative care. A person does not need to be in physical pain.

- If euthanasia becomes legal in NZ, people will access it because they think they lack other choices. Even though quality palliative care is effective, there is no corresponding legal right to access palliative care. Under current law, people can already say 'no' to treatments and can receive whatever level of pain relief they need. These days, no-one need die in pain.

The EOLC Act is badly drafted and seriously flawed. Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not 'compassion' to vote for a dangerous law.

See www.riskylaw.nz or www.votesafe.nz or www.carealliance.org.nz or www.nathaniel.org.nz

Authorised by John Kleinsman, 15 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington

Pro Life Facts: John Kleinsman, director of The Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics – an agency of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, believes it dangerous to implement any euthanasia law. "I think it will change the way we are as a society ... how we think about old people, how we think about people with a disability." For more pro-life information visit the Voice for Life website at voiceforlife.org.nz

2020 Funding Round for the Diocese of Palmerston North Allocations Group is now open Application forms and more information please contact Wendy Silver at wsilver@pndiocese.org.nz or (06) 354 1780.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED:

We remember and pray for all those who have died recently, especially John Murphy, Joyce Holland, Norah Sutton, Judith McCallum, John Hartley, Dorothy (Dot) Powell, Rosa Rowland, Ray Edwards and all whose anniversaries are at this time including Helma Wright, Richard Roberts, Hugh Cunningham, Louis Hickman, Margaret Landers, Joan Browning, Josephine Dombroski, Bruce Cudby, Dorothy Miers, Mary Mouat, Alan Linn & Victor Cucek. Mass has been requested for Giacomo Gallegioni