

**Based on the gospel for Sunday 8 September – Luke 14:25-33**

**“Anyone who comes to me without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, cannot be my disciple.”**

Jesus' comments about hating family members in this reading are shocking. Are they to be taken literally? I don't think so. The word hate is also used in Deuteronomy 21:15-17 where the meaning is 'preference or allegiance'.

However, if we are to be true disciples of Jesus and feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, then real sacrifice is involved.

In one of his Sunday Angelus addresses, Pope Francis said that faith must go further than just words. It must lead to concrete actions and choices, “marked by love of God, by a great life, by a life with so much love for neighbour.”

Pope Francis explained that for a variety of reasons, people may end up on the wrong path, “looking for happiness only in things, or in the people we treat as things.”

“But we find happiness only when love, real [love], meets us, surprises us, changes us. Love changes everything! And love can change us too, each of us”. Taking this path involves sacrifices but ‘Love changes everything’!

Loving Lord Jesus, help us to make the necessary changes in our lives and lifestyles so that we may become true or truer disciples with commitment to those who are poor.  
Amen.



## Harvest prayers

Pray this Family Fast Day (4 October) in hope for a brighter future for all our global family.

Pray



## Helping schoolchildren to access clean water

The back to school experience is shared by children around the world, from the UK to Zimbabwe. The difference is that many children around the world do not have access to basic needs.

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## [Back to school with CAFOD](#)

Are you back to school this week, or planning a new parish programme this September? Here are our top tips and tools for the new academic year.

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