Sermon: **We have only done our duty** (Luke 17.10)

Being a parent is a thankless task. It costs a lot of money to house, clothe, educate, feed, nurse children.

Do they say thanks? Even if not, are they grateful? Why should they thank parents – TEXT.

No one expects to be thanked for obeying the Road Code, or for not robbing a bank! Yet when comes to faith and church involvement many think in terms of St Peter at the pearly gates with the weighing scales!

How often do we think our acts of service, especially commitments, deserve some recognition, some reward, at least some thanks. But is life about earning rewards for doing service?

Being a parent is very much the same. TEXT.

[1] Servants & Parents are faithful.

Can be tough bringing up children, especially when we struggle with difficult situations. Ditto as Christians.

When we find no answers, we still wait patiently for God.

In both we continue to do our best whatever the cost. This is faithfulness, and is what children need.

[2] Servants & Parents are guided/instructed.

First-time Parents often panic – ‘don’t know what to do!’ Instinct can guide!

Often God’s impulse, God’s guidance seems somewhat crazy, against our better interests.

Often our relationship with God has more questions than answers.

In faith there are few *instant* answers (which society generally expects). In the end – TEXT.

Being faithful and guided is what faith means, and what being a parent means. There is more, of course – love, for instance.

But if you expect to be thanked, don’t volunteer. That goes for Church life, and being a parent!