

Tēnā koutou e te Whanau o Hāto Werahiko Kawerio.
Greeting to you all the parish of St Francis Xavier.

Today (7th October) is the feast day of our Lady of the Rosary. A reminder to us that in the history of the Church in times of distress or crisis, the faithful people of God have always asked the intercession of Mary our Mother. This month of October is the month of the Rosary but also a reminder of the power of prayer for our mental and spiritual well-being. Please remember those who are sick in our community, those who have lost loved ones, those in hospital and those who are lonely or feeling isolated.

In a time when, through circumstances beyond our control, we can feel isolated and disconnected, it is important to think of different ways to connect and support one another and reach out. We are still unable to meet for Eucharist on a Sunday, but weekday Masses are available. I'm reminded of a quote by Winston Churchill who said: "**Never let a good crisis go to waste.**" A reminder that in times of adversity there are opportunities for new ways of thinking and for good consequences to emerge. A challenge to us to look for new ways to connect with each other as a Church community. Start with your own family and friends and gather safely for simple prayer together. You could then maybe enlarge it to others nearby. It may start with something simple and manageable like the rosary or sharing the Sunday scripture readings. Who knows where the Holy Spirit may lead us.

Keep well, stay safe and always be hopeful. May God continue to watch over and bless us.

Fr Peter