

Catholic Parish of Whangarei
Pastoral Letter #6
25th April 2020

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Dear Parishioners

This weekend's commemoration of **ANZAC Day** calls to mind significant events that define our history and identity as a Nation. We remember all those who died for our nation.

Through the experience of adversity and trial we become the stronger.

I can think of nothing else that engages us of different generations but as one nation.

Last year I was able to visit the War graves at Cassino in Italy; it was special to pray there and at the Tomb of St Benedict in the Monastery above. My father was there in WWII.

In the Gospel for this Sunday – **Journey to Emmaeus** – we see the transformation of the disciples from before the death of Jesus to a new realisation of Jesus through the resurrection. From an experience of disillusionment, sorrow and loss they came to a deep joy when they recognised Jesus at the breaking of the bread.

I hope we can recognise Jesus' action in our world today. See Jesus in the tireless actions of the Doctors and Nurses, the rubbish collectors, supermarket staff and so many others we may have taken for granted in the past. It could be that through this experience we might reevaluate our lives and values and ask ourselves – what is important to me? How might I live my life differently?

Some people talk of looking forward to getting back to normal! Through all this, I pray there is a change in each of us and among us. May we be changed for the better through this experience.

We are here for you: You are welcome to call us – we are only a phone call away. Sadly for the most part it is only a phone call. The Parish Phone **(09) 4377209** has been diverted to the Presbytery (09) 4375266.

With Prayers and Blessings for you all

Fr Chris Martin s.m.

P.S.

Finance

Again sincere thanks to the many of you who contribute to the parish.

Please contact Glennis at admin@whangareicatholic.org.nz if you are able to make a donation. She can help arrange automatic payments.

Those with planned giving envelopes – we need to keep track of donations for your tax Receipt.