

## Catholic Parish of Whangarei

### Pastoral Letter 8

16 May 2020

[www.whangareicatholic.org.nz](http://www.whangareicatholic.org.nz)

Ph (09) 437 5266 (Res)

Email: [pp@whangareicatholic.org.nz](mailto:pp@whangareicatholic.org.nz)



Dear each of you

We notice that this is a **global Pandemic**. There is no continent or country that is immune to it. It is no respecter of persons – rich or poor. Even Prince Charles and Prime Minister Johnson have suffered from it. I would hope and pray that all Nations, leaders, the people of power might reflect on how we live together in our world as the community of humanity of brothers and sisters. As we can say, sons and daughters of God.

Not to forget we need to reflect and change the way we respect our world “**mother earth**” As a statement and a hope – we cannot go back to the way things were before.

Despite the Prime ministers’ restrictions, (10 People) we can now return to St Francis Xavier. Following the health and safety protocols:

**the Church will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.**

**One of us priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

Ushers will be on hand as we need to fulfil protocols for Sanitizing, Safe distance and Sign in. We will **need your help** as we develop systems to fulfil protocols for all gatherings into the future.

There is a Scripture song (John 14)

*If anyone loves me they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to him and make a home in him.*

It’s a reminder and encouragement to take time to focus on the **Word of God**. God is present in the word. Equally while we cannot gather to celebrate the Eucharist – in the Scripture readings of these days Jesus promised, and we have, the presence of God the **Holy Spirit** truly active in our lives.

**Parish Roll:** while no one is just a name or a number; one of the lessons learned is the need for up to date contact information for **keeping in touch** with Parishioners. If you have an **email address** can you please let us know. Equally if you have shifted or changed your phone Number.

Please note the parish web site address above. That has been our primary means of sending information. We are still learning how to maximize the use of the Facebook page:

***Catholic Parish of Whangarei – St Francis Xavier.***

To my knowledge we have had very few deaths in the Parish during the Lock down. As previously mentioned Jack Katavich died in April. This week Tom Butcher died at Potter Home. We Pray for them. Let us remember all the victims of the Virus.

Our prayers for you all.  
Blessings for light, hope and peace.

*Fr Chris Martin s.m.*