

Catholic Parish of Whangarei

Pastoral Letter 7

3 May 2020

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Dear Parishioners

Fast Food Takeaways: You will have heard of or even been part of the ques lining up for favourite takeaways when we came out of the Lock Down.

I have resisted so far but I must confess I am partial to them occasionally. Many will remember when the old St Francis Xavier church in Bank St was surrounded by the big brand fast food takeaways. Georgie Pie was right next door.

Our point of difference, yes, we look for food, but we come to recognise we need to be nourished by Jesus in his Word and Sacrament. Jesus is here for us as the Bread of life. Sadly, in this time we cannot gather to share in the Eucharist. But in prayer we can still be nourished.

This week the Church honours **St Joseph** the Worker. The feast is a response to the Communist era focus on the Worker. I am very mindful of and prayerful for those who have either lost their Jobs or whose employment is uncertain. These are stressful times for many I know.

While we are familiar with the image of Jesus as the **Good Shepherd**, the Gospel for this Sunday focuses on Jesus as the Gate through which we enter freely into the sheep fold, a place of care and protection. This is also a day we pray for Vocations especially to Priesthood and Religious life.

A reminder: this is the month of the **Rosary**! Pope Francis encourages us to pray this prayer daily. I find it to be soothing and calming in times of stress and worry.

Money Matters

Thank you to all who support the Parish through Planned Giving.

Tax Receipts for those on Automatic Payments have been posted.

For those who use Envelopes; If you would like a scanned receipt for Tax return – email Glennis at admin@whangareicatholic.org.nz and she can email it to you. Glenis is also available on Mondays and Wednesdays 10: a.m. – 2:00 p.m. if you would like to pick up your Receipt and Envelopes. Alternately they will be either delivered or posted.

With all Blessings

In the Lords Love and Care

Chris Martin s.m.

Parish Priest