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23 March 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you today, the families of our Catholic schools and home schooled children, as your bishop in the midst of perhaps the most severe global challenge our world has ever had to face. Whatever happens in the weeks and months ahead our world will not be the same. Perhaps also, each of us might have to reassess our lives, how we live as individuals and families, how we love, how we appreciate each other or how we might live a more simple life.

Perhaps as part of this you might want to rethink your own spiritual life or the spiritual life of your family. In the midst of this crisis we can buy into fear. Alternately we can use this as an opportunity for something new to come to birth for us, our families and community. Perhaps for many of you this might lead to an awakening of your spiritual lives.

Today I am asking my clergy and staff to make available resources to help people in self-isolation or lockdown in their spiritual life. Today I will be asking staff of our schools to prepare resources available through our Diocesan schools office and these will be placed on our Diocesan website, [www.cdh.org.nz](http://www.cdh.org.nz) in the coming days and weeks. Already I have offered a first Sunday Mass online and this will become daily from later this week. I am also doing daily reflections on my "Bishop Steve Lowe" facebook page.

These days provide an opportunity to prepare. You might purchase a large family prayer candle and or prepare a sacred place in your home.

May God bless you and your family in these uncertain times. Please be assured of my prayers and the prayers of all our clergy in this challenging time.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd

+ *Steve Lowe*

✠ Steve Lowe  
BISHOP OF HAMILTON