

Kia Ora whanau,

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your whanau during these days.

I wanted to share something that is on my heart. I know many people are really struggling at this time, vaccines, relationships, employment, politics, the Church. Many of us feel the uncertainty. People are wondering who to trust, what to believe. Knowing this, I didn't want to just sit by while people are hurting.

Personally, I have found a deep comfort in knowing someone does care, more than I will ever know, and they do have a plan through all of this. That someone has been Jesus. I know I'm biased, but He has given me the deepest peace and support. So I felt challenged to share it. The best way I have learnt to do this, to meet Jesus in a deeper way, is through an online course called Alpha. I'd love to invite you (you don't have to be Catholic) or people you know, who may be searching for more, looking for answers to their pain. Alpha is a course that allows questions about God and life to be asked in a safe environment.

Alpha is the most gentle way I've found to share God's love found in Jesus. I will be offering Alpha online (via Zoom) for 8 interactive sessions starting this Tuesday evening – 2 November at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Be assured there's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge; it's an open, informal, and honest space to explore. For more information go to: <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha-online-registration/> or contact me [michaelg@cda.org.nz](mailto:michaelg@cda.org.nz)

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my request. I will offer my rosary today for you and your families, that you may know peace at this time.

Please keep this in your prayers.

† Michael Gielen

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