

From the Pulpit  
*with* Very Reverend Allister Kelley OSFS  
The Vicar-General of New Zealand

At dawn on Sunday morning throughout New Zealand and Australia thousands of people of all ages gathered to reflect, remembering those who have died in war. It is a solemn day, with a sense of sacredness across our lands throughout the morning, and one of the few days of the year when commercial activity ceases (at least until midday).

For Christians, it is appropriate that this year, this day of remembrance falls on the fourth Sunday, within the season of Easter. While Anzac Day commemorations focus on the generosity of those who died, helping us to be grateful, the Easter/Anzac calendar coincidence reminds us that human violence is no match for the power of God which brings peace without violence.

While the Old Testament is a tale of victories and losses on battlefields, a new era is initiated when the friends of Jesus find his tomb empty at dawn on the first day of the week, the dawn of the new and Christ-centred era.

In these Easter days we remember that Jesus is walking alongside us. A new dimension of human existence is open before us. When we open ourselves to this gift we are transformed as the first disciples after the resurrection of Jesus were. This is the transforming power of Love from the source of all Love. Remember friends, and let Love be your guide towards a true, transforming peace.