

Anzac Dawn Parade 2024 - Bulls, New Zealand

Archbishop Rima Tamaiparea-Puki

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Padre Schuurman, E te Apotoro Wairua Tere Tahi, Brother Seminarian and Dear Members of the Bulls Community.

No one can accuse the Americans of being ‘unpatriotic’. One thing they got right and do well is by expressing courtesy and respect for military personnel past or present. It is often summed up in five words: “thank you for your service.”

For one reason or another, we don’t seem to do that. Not to the extent as the Americans... Perhaps we could be demonstrative of our gratitude in different ways? Maybe we could suggest to the local MP that our service men and women should not have to pay GST whilst in active service... Just saying...

Freedom is not only something we enjoy, it is a gift that comes often without knowing the sacrifice and expense. Such is the nature of a gift.

Permit me to give an example: I would fight for your right to do what it is that you want to do, to be what it is that you want to be and to say what it is that you want to say - even if that opinion is contrary to mine. Because that’s what it means to be free!

We enjoy freedom because of the service men and women who laid down their lives so that you could be, do and say whatever it is you want to be, you want to do and want to say. There are forces that wish to obliterate that freedom and for now we are protected from those atrocities. Don’t wait until it’s too late to say these few but important words: “thank you for your service.”

Let us pray.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.