



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

**Twenty Sixth Week Ordinary Time 1st October 2023, Year A**  
**Readings:: Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philipians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32**

## St Francis of Assisi Feast Day



### Francis Brings Peace at Gubbio (The Wolf )

As Francis' reputation for holiness and peace spread throughout his native Italy, people called upon him to resolve their disputes and to deliver them from danger and violence. On one such occasion, the people of the small town of Gubbio alerted Francis to the presence of a ferocious wolf in their countryside. All efforts to trap the wolf or drive him away had failed, so they called upon the Saint to intervene. He went out with only the message of the Gospel: no weapon, no sanctions, no threatening bravado. Francis met the wolf and called him to repentance for the chaos and harm that he had caused. The wolf and the townspeople agreed to live in peace; the wolf would refrain from attacks and the townspeople would feed the wolf for the rest of his life.

As is frequently the case, such pious legends often have a basis in history and scholars have long thought that this popular narrative of Francis exercising miraculous power over the world of animals has at its core a factual account of no lesser spiritual importance.

It may well be that the term "Wolf of Gubbio" signifies an epithet attached to a notorious outlaw of the period, who both raided livestock and robbed people as well. Confronted by armed villagers, the "Wolf" nonetheless prevailed, being either more skillful with weapons or more ruthless in nature.

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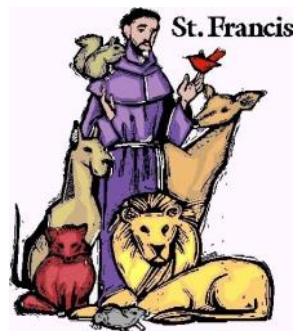
## Parish Information

Francis, however, neither confronted him with arms nor threatened him by sanctions. Rather, he challenged the robber in the name of the Lord to reconcile with his victims and so to experience the peace that only Christ can bring.

Thus, the legend of the "Wolf of Gubbio" points to a more enduring dimension of Francis' historical ministry, namely, the reconciliation of all people and their reintegration into the fabric of social life through the grace of forgiveness.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
help us to make peace in our day  
and to experience reconciliation in our lives.  
May our anger and hurt give way  
to affection and understanding for others.  
We ask this in Jesus' Name.  
Amen.



Pete sm

## Prayer for our Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu.

**Loving God**, as members of our Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu, we come before you in a spirit of love, prayer and thanksgiving.

We pray you bind us together in love. Whatever our age, cultural background and individual roles within our parish, may we be one together in Jesus. May we accept, affirm and support one another.

In your service we offer you our talents and gifts so as to build your Loving Presence amongst us. May our Parish be vibrant with your love and always a place of welcome

May your Holy Spirit anoint us, inspire us, and send us out into the community as witnesses to you and your love and teaching. May we have the courage and compassion to reach beyond our church to the peripheries to those who are most vulnerable and in need.

*May your Holy Spirit draw others to you through us.*

*We ask this in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

St. Francis of Assisi pray for us, and guide us.



**Reflection - Remembering Suzanne Aubert**

*'The old man lay in the bed at the Home of Compassion. He had been given his morning cup of tea. As a sister walked by he threw the lot at her – cup, saucer and the tea in it! The young sister was telling Mother Aubert about the incident. She was looking for advice as to how to deal with such situations. Listening attentively, Mother Aubert thought a moment and then said – "sister, catch the cup!"'*

At the heart of Suzanne Aubert's vision was compassion – being compassionate as God is compassionate.

She also knew that 'when all human endeavours fail, that is the moment of God'. So, trusting in God, drawing on the 'courage' that St John Vianney had gifted her, she put much effort into meeting the needs of people from 'all creeds or none'.

She struggled with the Church hierarchy. She travelled great distances within Aotearoa/New Zealand, always on the "main trunk line" and to Rome – at all times practicing 'contemplation on the hop'. Suzanne shared her vision and commitment – she built a faith and belief that gathered people around her - formed relationships, networks and friendships. She established the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion, Aotearoa/New Zealand's own religious order.

As Catholics we are familiar with imagery of the cup. At Gethsemane, just before his arrest, Jesus prayed: *'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want'*.

At the Last Supper Jesus *'took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, drink from it, all of you'*.

When life gets tough. When things don't go quite the way we thought they might. When we are hit with anger, frustration, weakness and failure, what is there to do but - *'Catch the cup'*.

**Joe Green**



### CONGRATULATIONS - ROBYN RADOMSKI

Last Saturday night Robyn was presented with the North Wellington Voluntary Service Award.

These awards recognise volunteer service for those who live within the Wellington Northern suburbs.

Robyn comes from a long-lived parish family (in that her family have lived in and been active in the Catholic Church). Robyn has had and continues to have an active and leading role in the parish.

To the fore is Robyn's 7 year commitment to the Bereavement Ministry. The Bereavement Ministry provides sympathy, support and guidance to bereaved families. This includes assisting organise the funeral and supporting the presiding celebrant at the funeral.

For the past twelve months Robyn has been the parish coordinator for the Bereavement Ministry.

In the last four years the Archbishop of Wellington has mandated certain lay people to preside at funerals (outside the Mass) and to lead committals. Robyn holds this mandate.



**Margaret Dunne, Robyn Radomski, Margie Crook**

## Parish Information

### First Friday Morning Tea

First Friday Morning Tea will be on 6th October.

All welcome to share Morning Tea following 8.30am Exposition and 9.00am Mass next Friday.

Hospitality - Pat Collier and a volunteer. Many thanks **Judith Shroff**

### Reverence For life Group

The Reverence for Life Group will be hosting a speaker at both Masses on the weekend of **7th & 8th October**.

Rahel Williams will speak about The House of Grace which helps young pregnant women to learn to become mothers in a safe environment.

You will have an opportunity to make a donation to support this worthy cause at the end of Mass.

On behalf of Reverence For Life  
**Carol Ryan**

### Reverence for Life

**Support Life Sunday 8th October - Prayer in the Brigidine Convent Chapel.  
1pm to 3pm.**

We are holding a special time of prayer to be part of Support Life Sunday. We believe it is through prayer that Christ will lead us in our vision that all life is treated with compassion, dignity and respect.

Please come and join us in this time of prayer. You are welcome at the chapel for any length of time. between 1pm and 3pm

### SAVE THE DATE

For the Parish Dance.

**Saturday, 25th November.**



**The Mass**

The attached link below is from the Christchurch Diocese website.

Retired Bishop Peter Cullinane explains Mass for anyone who would like to know more about how we worship.

<https://catholiceducation.nz/course/view.php?id=16&section=0>

**Heart for Hire - (Matthew 20: 1 - 16A)**

RCIA Catholics often report that they feel somehow inferior to cradle Catholics.

Having come to the church as adults, they don't share the parochial school history and enculturated Catholic memories that veteran members of the church have. In the same way, younger people in the church feel left out of the pre Vatican II store-house of comparisons that the post-conciliar crowd is always using as a reference point.

Latecomers in any arena can feel that their presence or commitment is less authentic. They don't have the battle scars to compete for acceptance.

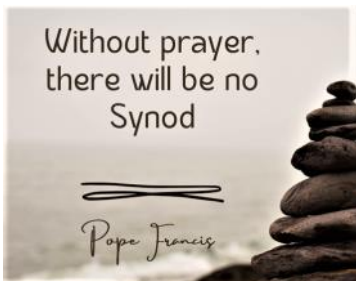
Jesus doesn't hire by the years or the scars, happily, but by the heart. Having heard Mass in Latin doesn't make one more genuinely Catholic, and wearing a plaid uniform for eight years is not a certificate of authentic faith.

Punching the clock doesn't make us disciples, but rather answering the call. The vineyard needs labourers. The only labourers who count are the ones whose hearts are for hire, and not just their time.

From: GPBS eNews [enews@gpbs.com.au](mailto:enews@gpbs.com.au)

**Joe Green**

**Let us Pray**



For the Church, on the eve of a new phase in the synodal journey, that the presence of the Gospel, alive and at work in her, may make her like the vineyard in the parable, a vital place where all men and women who seek meaning in their life find a place, a word, and a breath of hope, we pray.

## Parish Information

### Holiday Programme

Challenge will run a one day holiday programme for children aged 6 - 12 years.

Come along and enjoy a day of fun and activities.

**When:** Thursday, 5th October

**Time:** 10.00am - 3.00pm

**Where:** St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church Hall

**Bring:** Packed lunch and water bottle

To register your child, please contact Sindy, email: [joynago@hotmail.com](mailto:joynago@hotmail.com), or Ana, email: [anabaice@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:anabaice@challenge2000.org.nz) or the Parish Office, email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz)

### SomeThink

Attached is the published version of *SomeThink!* A journal of the Wellington Theological Consortium (WTC). This is a digital only journal.

WTC is a group representing the Anglican and Catholic Churches, The Salvation Army, and Wellington Pacific Bible College, and their involvement in theological education in the Wellington region.

*SomeThink!* is itself an experiment. We welcome any feedback which should be sent to the Chairman, Lyall Perris, at [lperris@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lperris@xtra.co.nz)

For a copy of the journal please [click here](#).

## Other Events/Notices

### Johnsonville Op Shop

We are holding our annual thank you luncheon for all our volunteers on **Thursday, 19th October 2023 at 12.30pm** in the Friendship Lounge at the Johnsonville Community Centre.

It would be lovely if all our volunteers could come and if you like please bring a guest as we have a speaker to talk to us about the Burns Unit at Hutt Hospital and what they do. Many thanks.

## MASS INTENTIONS

We ask for your prayers - Masses have been offered for:



**Recently Deceased:** Joseph Kamath, Robert Gray

**Anniversaries:** Johan Hermon, Baren Bose, James Dooley

**Prayers for the Sick:** Jacqui Gilligan, David Clarke, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Fr Frank Whitaker, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, John Fanning, Fr Maurice Carmody, Joe Godinet, Tony Bordignon, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Peter O'Connell.

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 30th September - Friday 6th October

### St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Sat:	5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun:	10.00am Mass
Mon:	9.00am Liturgy
Tue:	9.00am Liturgy (at the Brigidine Convent)
Wed:	11.00am Mass - Followed by Morning Tea
Thurs:	9.00am Liturgy
Fri:	8.30am Exposition and 9.00am Liturgy - Followed by First Friday Morning Tea

Please note, **Reconciliation** is held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10.30am before the 11am Mass.

### Our Parish Vision

We are missionary disciples of Christ,  
in a community of communities,  
being transformed in our lives,  
and transforming others and our world.

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz), Phone: 04 478 7137

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Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Donations:  
**02-0524-0203642-00**

