



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Palm Sunday 2nd April 2023, Year A

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27



Palm Sunday

People in biblical times honoured the donkey.

The donkey was an animal of peace as opposed to the horse, which was an animal of war, carrying soldiers into battle.

Jesus' act of riding into Jerusalem on an animal of peace says that an important part of the

Messiah's mission would not be to rally people to their cause and drive the Romans out of Palestine into the sea.

Jesus wasn't going to be a warrior-king, to sit on a throne and be served by conquered Romans. Instead, he came to kneel on the floor and wash the feet of his disciples.

Jesus didn't come to do battle against other people. He wasn't riding on a horse.

He has come to show them by his life that the loving 'fight' is against poverty, hunger, hatred, and all forms of injustice.

Jesus hasn't come to condemn people. He has come to forgive and free them.

Jesus hasn't come to destroy people's dreams. He has come to fulfil them in the most wonderful way imaginable.

It is this Jesus whom we greet today.

Pete Roe sm



OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

Handing Ourselves Over



Holy Week is a way to practice the most holy and sacred rhythm of our faith - death, burial and resurrection. Let us enter into Jesus' passion by "handing ourselves over" to the events of this week - Mary's costly act of preparation for Jesus' burial, Jesus' final teaching regarding the cost of discipleship, the tenderness of the Last Supper, the pain of betrayal, Jesus handing himself over to his enemies in the garden of Gethsemane, the arduous journey to the cross, the despair of Holy Saturday, the joy of resurrection Sunday.

As we prepare for Holy Week, let us ask Jesus what area of our lives at this time needs to be transformed through the rhythm of death, burial and resurrection. Let us ask him to be our teacher on the way... from death to burial to resurrection life.

"It seems that we Christians have been worshipping Jesus' journey instead of doing his journey. The worshipping feels very religious and safe; the latter just feels human and ordinary. We are not human beings on a journey toward Spirit, we are already spiritual beings on a journey towards becoming human, which for some reason seems harder precisely because it is so ordinary". (Richard Rohr)

Pete

Holy Week Message

During Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper), we have no masses or liturgies in the Parish.

We ask parishioners to use this week as a time of reflection and prayer in preparation for the Easter Triduum.

You are invited to spend time in your own "personal garden" to reflect in prayer on your life and the life Jesus has given us in these days.

Individual Reconciliation

Fr Pete will be in the Church on **Tuesday, 4th April** from 6.30pm - 7.30pm, if anyone would like individual reconciliation.

Holy Week



Holy Thursday (sometimes referred to as Maundy Thursday after the Latin mandatum or command to love one another, is a day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus.

In some traditions, there is the washing of the feet of various members of the community to recall a gesture of Christ at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. This is a sign of the need to do more to love one another and to serve all people, especially the poor.



Good Friday is a solemn day on which Christians recall the death of Jesus and its promise of hope and new life. In some traditions a wooden cross is set up and people spend time meditating before it.

Other people make the Stations of the Cross a devotion that recalls the journey of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to Calvary where he was crucified. (In Jerusalem the place of Christ's death and resurrection is commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

Many Christians keep this devotion but also see in the suffering of Jesus a reminder to be more concerned for the suffering of people in today's world. For many Christians, this day is also a day of fasting and penance.



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. While our society puts a major emphasis on Christmas, no other day is traditionally as sacred for the Christian community as Easter. This is the day Christians commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

In some traditions, the services begin the night before with the lighting of a new fire and the blessing of a large Easter candle. Water is blessed and many are baptized. But for all Christians, this is a day to renew one's faith.

In the Catholic Church, there is a sprinkling of all people with the newly blessed Easter water as a sign of renewal of our baptismal commitment. In many Protestant communities, Easter is celebrated at a sunrise service early on Easter morning. Easter usually ends with festive celebrations with special foods and Easter delicacies.

Pete sm

Parish Information

Holy Week Timetable

Palm Sunday Weekend - 1st / 2nd April

5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass
10.00am Sunday Mass
7.00pm Sunday Communal Reconciliation

Tuesday 4th April

6.30pm - 7.30pm - Individual Reconciliation (In the Church)

Holy Thursday - 6th April

7.00pm Mass

Good Friday - 7th April

10.00am Family Liturgy
11.00am Ecumenical Walk
3.00pm Liturgy

Easter Vigil - 8th April

7.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday - 9th April

10.00am Mass

Holy Thursday Saint Francis of Assisi, Ohariu Parish Church April 6th at 7.00pm

You are invited to attend and participate in our Holy Thursday Mass. The Youth team at Challenge 2000 and some of our outreach ministries are planning a beautiful liturgy to reflect the importance of this Mass as part of our Easter Haerenga (journey) together.

If you would like to participate in any way at all, please contact Marie Paurini 027 2838580 or Kitty McKinley 021 491459.

Suggestions/ideas/talents to share are welcome. Kia ora.

Parish Information

Lenten Reconciliation - Palm Sunday - 2nd April

Communal reconciliation is a way of acknowledging how our actions and lack of actions impact on others such as our church communities, family and those we meet in our daily lives.

It is a way of showing our need to turn back to God with renewed faith, hope and enthusiasm. This is why it is often referred to as a sacrament of mercy and forgiveness.

It is a chance to look deeply at our vulnerabilities, because our vulnerabilities are our strength - it is a time to reflect the strengths so that our focus is not always on our vulnerabilities. The whole purpose is to link us more closely and yet once again more fully with the love and life of God.

Come and be at peace with God and one another.

Join us for our communal reconciliation at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church on, **Palm Sunday, 2nd April 2023 at 7.00pm**

Good Friday Family Liturgy 10.00am

This is a special liturgy prepared for families. Come and be at the foot of the cross. Be with Jesus on his way to Calvary. Place a message at the foot of the cross. Spend time in prayer.

At 11.00a.m the Ecumenical Walk of the cross will start at the Uniting Church and walk down Dr. Taylor Tce, Broderick Rd, up Main Rd to St. John's Anglican church.

It would be good to see many families join in the walk at the conclusion of our family liturgy.

Family Space

There will be **NO** family space available on Palm Saturday or Sunday or any other of the Easter celebrations. The family space will be **back** on the weekend 15/16 April.

Thanks & blessings, Pat.

Parish Information

Welcome Ministry

It is important that as people join our parish that they are welcomed. This is the responsibility of all parishioners: to be welcoming, to speak with people, invite them for hospitality, and so on.

In a more formal sense, when new parishioners are notified to the Parish Office, their details are also supplied to Petrus and Mely Lau who lead our "Welcoming" Ministry. Their role is to make contact with the new parishioners, and fill them in on our parish.

It is an important ministry, one among the many we have in the parish.

Marist Messenger Reflections

All those who were regular subscribers will know that this magazine has ceased publication but fortunately Fr Jim Dooley has offered us his April reflections which had already prepared.

Please [click here](#) for the reflections.

Alternatively, if you would like either an email or printed copy of these, please email me on cleaver@actrix.co.nz

We are very grateful to Fr Jim for generously sharing his work with us.

Wendy Cleaver

ORGAN RECITAL: Saturday, 13th May - 3.00pm

Following a request from several parishioners, to present an organ recital on our Allen Digital organ, David Dobson will present an organ recital at our Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, on the above date.

The recital will be about an hour long. Those attending will be invited to offer a generous koha, and all donations will go towards Cyclone Relief.

The recital will demonstrate sounds of the organ not usually heard during Sunday worship and will be followed by afternoon tea, prior to our regular Vigil Mass at 5pm.

More information to follow!



Parish Information

Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental Programme for this year will begin with Reconciliation. Challenge 2000 and the Youth Team will be holding Sunday sessions as well as a holiday programme.

Further information will follow. We will communicate this through the Parish, Schools and Challenge.

In the meantime if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ana Baice - 021 562 690 or the Parish Office - 04 478 7137.

Chrism Mass

Monday, 3rd April at the Pro Cathedral, St Teresa's Karori at 7.00pm.

The Oils for the anointing of the sick, the anointing of those to be baptised and the anointing of those baptised, confirmed and ordained will be blessed and consecrated during the Mass. All welcome to come and celebrate.

Other Events/Notices

A Retreat for Mothers – “In the Potter's hands” - Saturday 6th May

As a mother, you always put the needs of your loved ones before your own. Today you are invited to come away, to rest and be blessed by the God who lovingly shaped you.

Join us on Saturday 6th May 2023 from 10am to 3:30pm Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Rhine Street, Island Bay. Please register with Lucienne Hensel by Friday 28th April. l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04 496 1715 / 021 164 5800

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

The Book of Job – a Book of Hope?... with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 24 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25 (incl. study material)

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/28/the-book-of-job-a-book-of-hope/>

YouTube Recording

The Notion of 'Church' with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/02/muffin-talk-with-prof-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: Flannan (Frank) Guidera

Anniversaries: Michael O'Meara, Fr Tadgh Tierney, Marshal Concessio

Thanksgiving: Nikhil D'Souza & Family

Prayers for the Sick: Cardinal John Dew, David Clarke, Jessie Hensen, Jennifer Munro, Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Fr Frank Whitaker, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Penelope Corich, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Peter O'Connell, Fr Kevin Purcell, Joe Godinet.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 1st April - Friday 7th April

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass - Saturday
Sun: 10.00am Mass - Palm Sunday
Thurs: 7.00pm Mass - Holy Thursday
Fri: 10.00am - Good Friday family Liturgy
3.00pm - Good Friday Liturgy

NOTE: There will be no weekday liturgies or Mass during Holy Week

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, Phone: 04 478 7137

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

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

