



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

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

**Twenty Second Week Ordinary Time 3rd September 2023, Year A**  
**Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27**

## Reflection

We are heading towards a general election. Who are you going to vote for?

I have just read a Stuff article, "**Labour v National: Who would make you better off?**" which spells out the personal financial benefits (election bribes?) on offer from the two largest parties. The headline suggests this is a good way to decide how to vote.

It's valid to ask, 'What's in it for me?', but is it the first question we should be asking? More importantly, is it the main question we voters should be asking?

Our Catholic-Christian tradition offers an alternative approach – one that is 'other' referential rather than 'self' referential. We should first ask: 'What is best for us as a society?' 'What will bring life and flourishing to those most in need?'

In today's 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, St Paul "urges" the community of Rome to be "living sacrifices. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice at this time? I suggest it means being tuned into and responding to the needs of others – making sacrifices that bring life where it is lacking, if necessary at the risk of great personal cost and ridicule, just like the prophet Jeremiah. It's there in the Gospel as well when Jesus says: 'Whoever wishes to come after me must deny themselves ...'

This week we are also, once again, heading into spring. In addition, the beginning of September coincides with the start of the month-long **Season of Creation**. Perhaps we are becoming inured to the daily reports of unprecedented wildfires, rising sea and land temperatures and torrential rain from cyclones. However, at this time of ecological crisis – some say "global boiling" – responding to the needs of others means attending to those suffering and dying from these events as well as attending to the needs of the planet which sustains us and all life.

**Contd.....**

**Reflection contd.....**

Being a living sacrifice, in this context, means sacrificing ourselves so that the planet and future generations will go on living. We cannot continue to live as we have – more than ever we must deny ourselves for our mokupuna and their descendants.

Let's all vote accordingly.

**John Kleinsman** is director of the NZ Catholic Bioethics Centre and a grandfather.

**Happy Fathers Day**



*Dear God,*

*Bless fathers all over the world on this and every day.*

*Help them to see clearly the path of their vocation as parents.*

*Guide them as they navigate a challenging and changing world with grace and courage.*

*Temper their strength with sensitivity and their knowledge with wonder and curiosity.*

*May they seek to be servant leaders in their families and in their communities.*

*And may they always look to you for guidance when the way forward seems unclear.*

*Amen*

**Pete sm**



## Parish Information

### Malvina Major Mass - Date Change

Please note there has been a date change. Mass will now be on **Friday, 8th September at 10.30am**. Many thanks, Judith Shroff - 021 203 1144.



### Alpha

On Tuesday evening, 25 parishioners began their 10 week Alpha course.

There was a real buzz as people got to know each other over a warm meal, generously provided and served by Couples for Christ. Thank you!

We still need more assistance with providing meals. If you think you can help by doing some cooking at home, please talk to Joe or Lucienne, or call the Parish Office. We can pick up the food, and all expenses will be reimbursed.



Please pray for our Alpha participants as they embark on this journey.

### Reverence for Life

The Reverence for Life group exists in our parish to promote a " Culture of Life in which every person, born and unborn, is protected and loved."

**One of our activities** is every three months to present at Mass the Book of Life. The Book of Life is a record of personal, family, church and community events that celebrate special occasions reflecting a celebration of life.

**The Book will next be presented on the weekend of the 9/10th of September.**

We welcome contributions to the Book for this presentation. Your contribution of a celebration event not only enriches our Book of Life but it helps to build awareness of the preciousness and dignity of life in all its stages from conception to death.

Please email your article with any photos to Fiona Kearns at email: [fionaearnz@gmail.com](mailto:fionaearnz@gmail.com), or leave a hard copy in the specially marked "Book of Life" container in the church foyer. Thank you for your support.

### Volunteer Training

A second session of training and upskilling for volunteers took place on Wednesday 30 August.

The Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Ohariu is known for its service and outreach and volunteers are active across many agencies, groups and cultures.

Ten parishioners, who have a rich history of volunteering between them, met to discuss their experiences working cross-culturally, working appropriately and safeguarding.

Volunteers are required to have a police check if they are working with children or vulnerable people and sign a Code of Conduct with the Archdiocese of Wellington.

The evening was led by Jo-Anne Carley and Kitty McKinley and the feedback was very good.

This opportunity for training will be offered again in October so watch this space.

A big thank you to all the people who joined this training.

**Jo-Anne Carley & Kitty McKinley**



### Weekly School Liturgy with The Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, **5th September**, we will be having our liturgy with St Brigid's School, at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church. It will start at **9:15am**.

Next Thursday, **7th September**, we will be having our liturgy with St Benedict's School, in the library at **9.00am**.

If you would like any further info please contact Ana Baice, ph: 021 227 3754.

All are welcome, we would love to see you there praying with our children.



## Parish Information

### Family Mass 10.00am - Sunday 17th September

Anyone who would like to participate in this Mass please contact:  
Pat Collier - email [tchpat.collier@gmail.com](mailto:tchpat.collier@gmail.com).

If you have a national costume we encourage you to wear it on the day.

During the offertory procession we would like you to bring up a family coat of arms, something precious to your family, a photo, a drawing. Please bring them along on the day.

On the day please bring food for a shared lunch after mass.

Also we encourage you to bring an item of non perishable food for families in need.

These can be placed in the basket before mass and will be presented at the offertory.

Many thanks. **Pat Collier**

### Season of Creation - An Ecumenical Event

**How:** via Zoom

**When:** 7pm, 17 September 2023 at St Francis of Assisi

**Meeting ID:** 845 6543 7259

**Passcode:** 036442

The Season of Creation is an Ecumenical initiative started in 2010 by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I.

A group of the Focolare in Oceania, NZ and the Pacific Islands have decided to do an online event of 1 hour. We have drawn contributions from around the region. The program will be broadcast online via zoom in French and English.

The program is made up of prayer, meditation, short talks, experiences and music all in celebration of working towards a better world.

We will share a cuppa after the event.

**Ian Hamilton**

## Parish Information

### Sacramental Programme



The final session for the Confirmation Programme will be on **Sunday, 3rd September from 2.00pm - 4.30pm.**  
[Click here](#) for dates and times.

For details, contact Ana Baice on 021 227 3754 or the Parish Office, ph: 04 478 7137.

Confirmation Mass will be held on: **Sunday, 10th September at 2.00pm.**

### Christian Meditation

A Christian Meditation groups meets: **Mondays**, at 7.00 - 7.45pm in the Committee Room, Uniting Church, Johnsonville.

Meditation is not something new to Christianity. It is rooted in the gospel and in Paul's letters. Also known as contemplative prayer, meditation is the ecumenical prayer of silence and listening.

*"Be still and know that I am God" - Psalm 46.:10*

To learn more about Christian Meditation ring Linda or Nick Polaschek, ph: (04) 479 7955 or simply come along any Monday evening.

The World Community for Christian Meditation has a comprehensive website: [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

## Other Events/Notices

### Notices - Titipounamu Study & Joy

**Women in the Bible** with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$45 for 3 sessions. All sessions are connect but also stand alone.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/10/women-in-the-bible/>

**Liturgical Spaces** with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin.

Series on Muffin Talk radio programme freely available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/17/liturgical-space-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

### Social Justice Week - 3rd-9th September 2023

**Imagine Peace for all: Peace begins with you!**  
**Pohewatia te Rangimārie mō te Katoa: Ka tīmata tonu te rangimārie i roto i ā koe!**

Pope Francis said that "Every human being desires communion and peace. Everyone needs peaceful co-existence. But this can grow only when we also build inner peace in our heart."

Each year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference lead us in Social Justice Week to consider an issue of social justice in Aotearoa.

This year marks the beginning of a three-year focus on building peace and responding to conflict.

We hope people will begin their journey by reflecting on their own personal peace and how to seek the peace of God in all areas of their lives.

For more information visit <https://www.caritas.org.nz/schools/social-justice->

### Fundraiser in Aid of YouthLine Wellington

Please join us for our Fundraiser Dinner Dance organised by AV Funding Youth in aid of YouthLine Wellington.

**When:** Saturday, 4th November 2023

**Where:** Atura Hotel, 24 Hawkestone Street, Thorndon, Wellington

**Time:** 5.00 pm – 11.30 pm

**Cost:** Tickets - \$75pp.

Youthline gives free confidential advice and guidance to the youth who are seeking help, and support for a range of topics, for example mental health, depression, self-harm, abuse, suicide, bullying etc.

For more details please view flyer on the church notice board in the foyer.

**Enquires** - Vino, ph: 021 31 84 66 or Anselm: ph: 022 456 3627

**Email** – [avfundingyouth@gmail.com](mailto:avfundingyouth@gmail.com)

## MASS INTENTIONS

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



**Recently Deceased:** David Wood, Janet Scapolo, Shirley Mahony, Anita Woods

**Anniversaries:** Nellie Stowers, Joanne Gordon, Brigid Taylor

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

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 2nd September - Friday 8th September

### 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

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

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

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

Parish Bank Account for Donations:

**02-0524-0203642-00**

