



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

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

**Second Week of Advent, 4th December 2022 Year A**  
**Readings:** *Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12*

## Let us pray ...

In his book [The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic: how engaging 1% of Catholics could change the world](#), Matthew Kelly (2012) concludes that about 7% of Catholic parishioners are doing almost everything in their faith community and paying almost entirely for the maintenance and mission of the parish. Kelly calls these 'dynamic Catholics'.

Dynamic Catholics have four key characteristics in common, one of them being PRAYER. While dynamic Catholics pray in different ways (Mass; Rosary; meditation; read reflective material, etc) they make prayer a priority and a routine. Advent, the beginning of the Church's year is a good time to look at how we pray.

Kelly provides a process for prayer. It happens daily. Initially a 10 minute commitment, it quickly becomes about 20 minutes, but 10 minutes is the minimum.. It's enlivening, refreshing, and a great process to use. Here it is:

1. Gratitude: Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.
2. Awareness: Revisit the times in the past twenty-four hours when you were and were not the-best-version-of-yourself. Talk to God about these situations and what you learned from them.
3. Significant Moments: Identify something you experienced today and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that event (or person).
4. Peace: Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed (against yourself, another person, or God) and to fill you with a deep and abiding peace.
5. Freedom: Speak with God about how God is inviting you to change your life, so that you can experience the freedom to be the-best-version-of-yourself.
6. Others: Lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.
7. Finish by praying the Our Father.

**Joe Green**

## Parish Information

### Mass Times Update

Please find below the timetable for the centralisation to one Mass Centre over the following months.

- 8th January 2023 - 10.30am Mass at Ss Peter & Paul Church
- Ss Peter and Paul Church will then close for a makeover from Monday, 9th January 2023.
- There will be no weekday Masses in the Parish from 26th December 2022 to 18th February 2023.
- An announcement will be made as to whether a Word and Communion Liturgy will be offered during the week over this time. Any weekday Word and Communion Liturgy during the time Ss Peter and Paul is closed would be held at St Benedict's.
- From weekend 14th/15th January 2023 till weekend of 11th/12th February 2023, while Ss Peter and Paul's is closed, there will be two Masses each weekend offered.

They are as follows:

- 5pm Saturday Vigil at St Andrews,
- 9am Sunday at St Benedict's.
- Weekend of 11th/12th February 2023, St Andrew's Church and St Benedict's Church will close. Details to follow.
- Sunday 19th February 2023 at 11am - This will be the opening of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church, (Dr Taylor Terrace). This will be the Parish Mass of the weekend. Details to follow



**Pete Roe & Joe Green**

### Thank You

To all who attended the St Benedict's Organ recital last Sunday, to those who worked hard behind the scenes, and to all who contributed to the delicious afternoon tea. It was a very happy occasion - beautiful music, food, and fellowship!

**Judith Shroff**

## Parish Information



### Welcome

Last Sunday at Ss Peter and Paul Church we welcomed Peter Phillips who was Baptized, Confirmed and had his First Communion.

It was a special occasion. Thanks to everyone for welcoming and praying for Peter and his family, Denise and children Giana and Michael. And special thanks for those who assisted in preparations and the morning tea.



**Jo-Anne Carley**

### Marking the Closing of St Benedict's Church

As you are aware - our beloved church of St Benedict is to close. Our last Mass there as a St Benedict's community will be on Sunday 12 February 2023.

We are organizing a fitting tribute to the role of St Benedict's in our Parish and community life. This will take place over a series of weeks and we hope will include:

- Successive gatherings after Masses in Jan/Feb to recount stories and histories of the church and the people who have worshipped there;
- A community gathering at the church on Saturday evening 11th February (ending with Benediction and a vigil into the night after people have gone home);
- Our last St Benedict's Mass at 9am Sunday 12 February.

More information will be given in coming weeks.

Please join us and participate! If you want to help/actively take part – or if you have additional ideas – please contact:

Robyn Radomski: [robynrad71@gmail.com](mailto:robynrad71@gmail.com)

Teresa Preston: [terber@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terber@xtra.co.nz)

Paul Whitehouse: [paulwhitehousenz@gmail.com](mailto:paulwhitehousenz@gmail.com)

Clive Sowry: [cvamsowry@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cvamsowry@xtra.co.nz)

John Lawson: [jlawsonz@gmail.com](mailto:jlawsonz@gmail.com)

## Parish Information

### Newlands Archives

Does anyone have a copy of the booklet published for St. Andrew's 40 years celebration? If so may we take a photocopy to keep in the parish archives.

If anyone has any other historical information about St. Andrews could they please contact me - Pat Collier, email: [tchpat.collier@gmail.com](mailto:tchpat.collier@gmail.com)

Thanks and blessings.

### Johnsonville Christmas Parade - Saturday 3rd December

The Combined Churches of Johnsonville will have a float in the parade.

We invite any children who would like to take part to gather at the Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace [next to St. Brigid's] 9.45am on 3rd December.

Come dressed as a member of the nativity scene or borrow a costume supplied at the Uniting Church on the day.

There will be a nativity scene on the float and all other participants will walk beside the float which goes along Dr Taylor Terrace, down Broderick Road, up the Main road and back to Dr Taylor Terrace. Adults are welcome to be part of the parade.

### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers for Families

We are preparing hampers of edible treats to celebrate Christmas for people who might miss out.

In past years with help from our parishioners we have filled hampers for families with food items including cans of fruit, pasta, and sweet biscuits. With your help we can fill hampers for over 40 families.

If you are able, please add your donation to the food basket at Ss Peter & Paul Church, Johnsonville.

We plan to pack hampers on Sunday 11 December for delivery soon after, and will be very happy to **receive your donation by 4 December.**

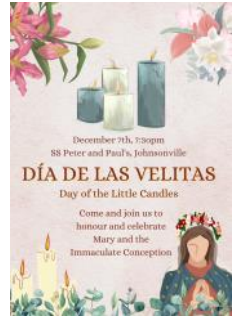
## Parish Information

On the **7<sup>th</sup> of December**, Sindy Rodriguez and the Youth Ministry Team of Challenge 2000 will be celebrating Día de las Velitas (Day of the Little Candles).

This is a wonderful tradition held in Colombia.

We will be lighting small candles in celebration and honour of Mother Mary and the Immaculate Conception and holding a reflective Service. 7.30pm **at SS Peter and Paul's Church in Johnsonville**. Everyone is very welcome to celebrate this day with the Colombian Community.

For more details, please contact Sindy on 022 513 7914. See you there! Todos son bienvenidos!



### St Benedict's Hamper Mass 9am Sunday - 11th December

St Benedict's will again be holding the Hamper Mass next month. We have 18 families we are supporting in our community this year, the list of families will be in the foyer of the church. As per usual we ask for parishioners who are able to select a family and the associated tag off the Christmas Tree.

For the hampers we suggest non-perishable items such as tinned / dry foods, toiletries and other items you might feel are appropriate for the family you have chosen. Some parishioners like to include a small gift as well, but each hamper is very individual!

We ask parishioners to bring their hampers to the church on the **11th December** for the Mass, where they will be placed in front of the altar before the Mass starts.

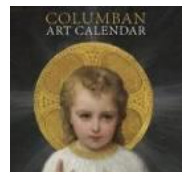
Thank you for your support, please contact Jo Mackenzie on 021 990 918, if you have any queries.

**Columban Calendar 2023** - We have received the 2023 Columban Calendars for next year. They are available to purchase at a cost of **\$12 per calendar**.

In the event you cannot attend Mass and wish to purchase one,

please contact the Parish Office; **ph: (04) 478 7137**,

**email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz)**.



**Reflective Thoughts**

For those who do not know me, I am Eustie Kamath. I have been in this parish since 2008. I have held many roles in this parish. Today I am the Eucharistic Minister!

But for the grace of God. But for the grace of God, I would not be standing in front of you today. I owe my gratitude to many of you in this community. Some of you are present today, I won't name you. You know who you are. When I needed a place to stay you found me accommodation, when I was lonely you gave me company, when I was in mourning you gave me comfort, when I was feeling down you gave me a shoulder to lean on, when I needed to realign my compass, you walked with me. The list goes on. But, most of all – you made me part of this community, this family.

I have reflected many times why anyone, yes anyone, would reach out to assist someone. The conclusion I have reached is simple - you reach out to assist others because, you let the grace of God flow through you.

Would anyone like the grace of God to flow through you?

I guarantee you, that before the sun sets on today you will come across at least one person whose life you can make at least a little bit better. When you do come across such a person, this is the time you have to answer the question – Am I going to let the grace of God flow through me? Your decision has nothing to do with what organization or group you belong to; what community or parish the person in need belongs to. The grace of God is not parochial!

The grace of God is not parochial!

If you let the grace of God flow through you, someday, someone you have assisted may stand in front of a congregation not very different from this and begin by saying “But for the grace of God, but for the grace of God ...”

***Eustie Kamath – St Benedict's Church 27.11.2022***



## Parish Information

### **Christmas Mass Times**

#### **Wednesday 14th December - Communal Reconciliation**

St Benedict's Church: 7.00pm

#### **Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve**

St Benedict's Church: 5.45pm Carols for 6.00pm Family Mass

Ss Peter & Paul Church: 6.30pm Carols for 7.00pm Family Mass

St Andrew's Church: 7.30pm Carols for 8.00pm Family Mass

#### **Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day**

St Benedict's Church: 9.00am Mass

Ss Peter & Paul Church: 10.30am Mass

## Other Events/Notices

### **Challenge 2000's - CHRISTMAS APPEAL**



Help a family in need this Christmas. Donate gifts for teenagers or food for our hampers.

Every year Challenge 2000 delivers over 150 food and gift hampers to families in our communities who needs a bit of extra help. Please help us!

You can either drop items around to:

1 Wanaka Street, Johnsonville  
OR

Drop off to a box at the St Peter & Paul Parish.

**Please donate before 20th December.**



# MASS INTENTIONS



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

**Prayers for the Sick:** Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Robyn Clarke, Jessie Hensen, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Margaret Blight, Joe Godinet, Penelope Corich, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Tau So'oa, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Peter O'Connell, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Maurice Carmody

*On the Second Sunday of Advent we light the Bethlehem Candle, which represents peace. At this time we pray for peace to all those in conflict whether it be war, family, relationships or during major change. Let us pray for one another.*



## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 3rd December - Sunday 11th December

### St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Sat: 3rd December - Vigil  
Mass

Sat: 10th December - Word  
& Communion

### St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sun: 9.00am - Mass  
Mon: 9.00am - Liturgy  
Mon: 7.00pm - Meditation  
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy  
Wed: 9.00am - Liturgy  
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy  
Fri: Exposition 8.30am and  
Liturgy at 9.00am  
Sun: 9.00am - Mass

### St Peter & Paul's Church 37 Dr Taylor Tce,

Sun: 10.30am - Word &  
Communion  
Mon: 9.00 - Liturgy  
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy  
Wed: 11.00am - Mass with  
morning tea  
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy  
Fri: 9.00am - Mass  
Sun: 10.30am - Mass

Please note, **Reconciliation** is held at St Peter and Paul's on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10.30am before the 11am Mass.

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**

