



# 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 Lent, 5th March 2023, Year A**

**Readings:** Genesis 12:1-4, 2Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9

## **Transfigured and Transformed**

*"The story of the Transfiguration is a journey into ministry with all its misconceptions and all its misunderstandings and all its mistakes and all its mighty power" (Joan Chittister).*

Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration is a high, lonely and desolate place. To ancient spiritualities, as for Māori, mountain tops are sacred places, places where people seeking a special relationship with God go. It is to the mountain top that Jesus takes Peter, James and John. It seems they thought they would be alone with Jesus, and with God.

Indeed, Jesus is Transfigured – his face shining like the sun, his clothes like light.

Then an interesting thing happens; Jesus is seen talking with Moses and Elijah. That's significant.

He appears not with David, the king, or Aaron, the priest, but with Moses, who led his people out of slavery, and Elijah, the one whom King Ahab described as "the troubler of Israel", the one who made the people feel ill at ease at worshipping false gods. That's the message for those in ministry: lead God's people out of their oppression, and remind them to be faithful to the One True God.

Good old Peter, the continual bumbler! "Let's build". Let's set up an edifice, a structure, a place of comfort.

God has other plans: "this is my Son ..... listen to him".

And what does Jesus do? We don't hear it in today's gospel. He takes Peter, James and John down the mountain, and begins ministering to the crowds. It is all very well to go to the mountain top, however, as Jesus reminds us, ministry begins when we return to the plain.

**Joe Green**

## Parish Information

### Children's Day Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that you took children into your arms and blessed them.

May every child know the deep peace and love of being held close to you.



We especially ask you to protect all unborn children and children who are impoverished, neglected and abused.

May we your people open our hearts to bring compassion into the lives of vulnerable children.

Help us to support and encourage families and communities in the love and protection of their children.

May children everywhere grow up feeling accepted, safe and loved.

**Amen**

### Lenten Reflection Group

Each Wednesday night in March,

**8 March** - *Lent and Pacifica people.* Led by Lafaele Baice

**15 March** - *Reaching across Barriers.* Led by Jo-Anne Carley

**22 March** - *Called to New Life.* Led by Jo-Anne Carley

**29 March** - *Carrying Crosses Together.* Led by Jo-Anne Carley

**Time:** 7.00pm to 8.00pm

**Venue:** the Chapel space at Challenge 2000, 1 Wanaka Street, Johnsonville.

It would be nice to know if you are planning to come; all welcome.

Jo-Anne Carley phone 022 300 7413 . Email [jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz) or Ana Baice 021 227 3754

## Parish Information

### Lenten Stations of The Cross

Each Wednesday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March at 7.00p.m. At St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church, 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville.

**Collection** - This weekend - 4th / 5th March - we will have a second collection at both Masses, in support of Cyclone Gabrielle. The proceeds will be paid to St Vincent de Paul's - supporting cyclone victims.

If you would like this recorded in your planned giving, please place your name and planned giving number on your envelope.  
Many thanks.

### 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 of Life not only becomes a beautiful record of celebrations but through the presentation of the Book we seek to grow awareness of the need to pray for, and to promote, a Culture of Life in which every life is held to be precious and made in the image of God.

The next Book of Life will be presented over the weekend of 25th/26th of March. We welcome contributions to the Book. If you are having a celebration of any kind please consider sending an account of the celebration along with a photo(s) to Carol Ryan at:  
[carol.may.ryan@gmail.com](mailto:carol.may.ryan@gmail.com)

Your contribution will be most welcomed.

**Another of our activities** is to hold times of prayer, praying for family life to flourish. Accordingly we will gather in the Brigidine Convent Chapel on **Sunday, 25th March, from 1.00pm to 3.00 pm.**

We would love you to come and join us in this time of prayer.

Watch the Newsletters for more information.

### Ecumenism – Ash Wednesday 22 February 2023

The Ash Wednesday Ecumenical service was held on 22 February at St Francis of Assisi Parish Johnsonville. There were the Anglican Church and the Presbyterian Church of Khandallah, the Uniting, Anglican and Catholic Churches of Johnsonville present all working together to celebrate our oneness in Christ.



This was the first time that we had expanded out to the other local Churches of Khandallah. The event was unique in that for the first time Churches outside of Johnsonville were present because of the amalgamation of St Andrews, St Benedicts and Ss Peter and Paul into one Church called St Francis of Assisi Ohariu in Johnsonville so we can now reach out to a wider group of Churches.

All the participating Churches expressed a desire to bring ahead this relationship. Apart from the cited Churches other Churches involved with us are the Salvation Army and the Brethren who did not however participate in this Ash Wednesday event.

There were at least 100 people present which was a first and the average age of the people running the function were much younger than previous years and we were ethnically quite diverse which was also a first.

The program lasted 45 minutes with 14 people actively involved from the 5 Churches and there was also active participation by the congregation.

The next step will be to get all the Churches together to look at all the possible events that we could all or severally elect to be a part of.

We thank the following for their involvement: -

Tony, Janet, Georgina, Naima, Geoff and Andrew from JUC. Ben from JAC. Joe, Pat, Francesca, Feliz, Tinette, Bingo, Ian, the Focolare communities for hospitality and the wonderful kitchen group always at our service.



Bek from KAC.

The 100+ participants of the 5 Churches for their active participation.

**Ian Hamilton**

## Parish Information

### Greetings all from the Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

This coming Tuesday 7th March our school Liturgy will be led by the amazing Yr 3 & 4 students from St Brigid's School, at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church.

They start at 9:15am and finish at 9:45am. Our theme is LET'S GET READY. Ready for Lent and ready for 2023.

If you would like any further info please contact Ana Baice: 021 562 690. All welcome, we would love to see you there praying with our children.

### Hospitality in the Church

**Every Sunday** following Mass there will be hospitality in the hall. All welcome.

**Every Wednesday** following 11.00am Mass - cup of tea. All welcome.

**First Friday of the month.** Please note the first Friday of every month, there will be a cup of tea after the morning Liturgy. All welcome.

### Communal Reconciliation

On Palm Sunday, 2nd April at 7.00pm at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church, there will be a communal reconciliation. All very welcome.

Easter Mass timetable to follow.

### Parish Visitation Ministry

Our Ministry provides visitation and pastoral care to parishioners at home, and to those living in rest homes in our Parish area.

If you know of anyone who would like a visit for companionship, or for prayer and communion, please contact the Parish Office ph: 04 478 7137 or email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz)

Anyone interested in joining our Ministry is welcome to contact me for further information. **Pauline White - ph: (04) 213 1915 mobile: 021 151 2543.**

**Reminder** - If you are unable to attend Mass and you wish to receive Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office to discuss arrangements - **ph: (04) 478 7137.**

## Other Events/Notices

### 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)

### Cyclone Appeal - Society of Saint Vincent De Paul

The SVDP has started a national appeal to help the victims of the recent cyclones that have caused devastating loss in the largest and most widespread weather event ever to impact New Zealand.

The Society, through its conferences in the affected areas, will provide financial help, and food, clothing, furniture and advocacy assistance to those affected for as long as the recovery takes.

Donations can be made directly to the St Vincent de Paul National Cyclone appeal at <https://donate.svdp.org.nz/> who issue donation receipts for tax purposes.

Alternatively, cash donations can be made at church in the food basket or the St Vincent de Paul donation box. Please include your name, email and address details if you wish to receive a receipt for tax purposes. Thank you for your help.

### St Bernard's College Lower Hutt Reunion

All old boys and their families are invited to a weekend of activities between Friday 17th March and Sunday 19th March 2023!

To register please visit: [www.sbob.org.nz](http://www.sbob.org.nz) or SBC Old Boys on Facebook. Can't wait to catch up with you all.

## Other Events/Notices

Challenge 2000 would like to give a HUGE thanks to the Johnsonville, Newlands and Khandallah Parish's for all of their help over the years.



Speaking on behalf of the Food Bank at Challenge 2000, we are very much aware that there are lots of organisations that are asking for monetary and food donations. However we are desperately needing your help!

With all that is going on in NZ, the amount that is being donated to our Food Bank is dwindling, leaving our cupboards bare.

We are urgently needing YOUR help in donations of food, toiletries, bedding or finances..... we need items to keep our busy Food Bank open.



Please get in touch at (04) 4776827 or pop into:

**1 Wanaka Street, Johnsonville,**

if you need more information. Many thanks.

### Joshua Wellington

Joshua Wellington invites men to join us on **Thursday 16th March at 7:30pm** at the 'Loaves and Fishes' next to Anglican Cathedral of St Paul, corner Hill and Molesworth Streets followed by supper.

Topic: "Return to God - Listen to His voice"

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-447 -7280 or email: [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

**Quote.....**"Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to Jesus. He speaks to us in the Word of God and through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and stories of those who are in need. In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no generous effort will be lost."

Pope Francis, [Twitter, 18/02/23](#)

## MASS INTENTIONS



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

**Recently Deceased:** Stan George, Euan Tullett,

**Anniversaries:** Joseph & Apolonia D'Souza, Angeline D'Souza, Olga D'Souza, Santaninho Rodrigues, Ossie D'Lima

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

Let us pray for all the people of New Zealand affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. At this time, may they find the strength to rebuild their lives and support one another. Let us remember them in all in our prayers.

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 4th March - Friday 10th March

### 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 - with 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.

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**

