



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

Fifth Week Ordinary Time, 5th February 2023, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16

"Your light must shine in the sight of all"

As I speak with, and especially listen to parishioners express themselves about the closure of our churches, and our centralisation as a parish into a church that will not look the same as it did, I remind myself that this will not break our faith.

Our faith is, first and foremost in Jesus Christ, who by his death and resurrection enabled the reign of God to burst through, so that it might be 'on earth as it is in heaven'.

The reign of God is no longer mediated through bricks and mortar, the Romans pulled them down in CE70! When our faith is in bricks and mortar, like the Jews of the Old Testament we look inward, to the holy of holies, the place where only men in special garments could go. And where only they could commune with God.

In his ministry and on the cross Jesus was gazing outward, across Jerusalem, Palestine and to the world. His crucifixion was an act of supreme love, and during his ministry he taught us how we too might show that love.

I have been Lay Pastoral Leader in the parish of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu for just on twelve months. I have seen some amazing acts of love and generosity – to name just a few: families supported with food, clothing and furniture; the sick and housebound visited and blessed; the bereaved comforted and consoled; ecumenical services - joining in with other Christians in unity; great liturgies, carefully planned and executed; and hospitality offered and shared. Each and all an opportunity to let the Light of Christ shine.

We may well feel disappointed, perhaps even a bit angry about the property changes. It's then that we need to remind ourselves that the bricks and mortar will fall, but the gaze of Christ from that cross will always be outward. And it'll never be comfortable!

Joe Green

Closing Ceremonies for St Andrew's and St Benedict's

The Churches of St Andrew and St Benedict will both close on the weekend of 11/12 February.

Both communities have been planning how to mark these sad events.

St Andrew's

11 February, 5pm

Closing Mass

There will be hospitality afterwards so please bring some food to share.

We would be grateful if you could spread the word to past parishioners as their stories and reminiscences will be an important part of our evening together. Kia ora.

St Benedict's

11 February, 7pm

Reminiscences followed by prayers and a cup of tea.

Silent vigil until midnight.

Contact John Lawson jlawsonnz@gmail.com to book a slot to reminisce or keep vigil.

12 February, 9am

Closing Mass

Please bring a plate of finger-food to share at morning tea

Monday the 6th February is our National Day commemorating the first signings of the Treaty of Waitangi - Te Tiriti o Waitangi, in 1840.

In the Treaty of Waitangi, we find the moral basis for our presence in Aotearoa New Zealand and a vision that sets this country apart.

We hold in our hands a great treasure - the opportunity to create a society that truly honours the rights of its indigenous people. We have an opportunity to heal wounds that have been present for too long.

The Treaty of Waitangi was built on respect for persons and respect for their diversity.



**New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference,
[Statement on the Treaty of Waitangi, 1995](#)**

Parish Information

Weekend Mass Schedule from 25/26 February

The upcoming move to a single church means we need to adjust the weekend Mass schedule from 25/26 February onwards.

The Leadership Formation Team (LFT) objectives have been, as much as possible, to ensure that existing faith community relationships are maintained and that the worshipping needs of parishioners continue to be met. In this context, Cardinal John has approved that the Parish will have two masses, this will meet the pastoral needs and help to bring the three communities together. This is a trial time, and if needs increase, we will look to revise accordingly.

Based on pastoral advice from our parish community, the LFT have decided to schedule a **5pm Saturday Vigil Mass** and **10am Sunday Mass** from 25/26 February.

Best Wishes - Leadership Formation Team (LFT)

St Francis of Assisi Parish Church Opening Mass Sunday, 19th February. 11am

We look forward seeing you all at the opening of our Church, where we will gather as one worshipping community in our newly refurbished parish church - St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish.

Let's all take an active part in this occasion - its an opportunity for a new start. Old friends and fellow parishioners gather - new friendships and contacts are formed.

Let's all play a part: we need proclaimers, eucharistic ministers, florists, singers, dancers, potato peelers, bread butterers, musicians, sacristans, altar servers, ushers, car park attendants, spit roasters, carvers, tea makers, baristas, dishwashers, waiters – people of generosity, goodwill, hope and joy.

So buckle up, hang on – it's going to be a Heaven of a ride! If you are up for this ride please contact any one of the following people:

John Lawson – Hospitality contact. Mob no: 021 616 031

Wendy Cleaver – Liturgy contact. Mob no: 027 269 6209

Colleen Campbell - Music contact. Mob no: 022 312 9037

Paul Whitehouse - Committee chair. Mob no: 027 422 6625

Our Family Friendly Church

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". (Mark, 10: 13-14).



Following a workshop involving members of the Leadership Formation Team, Parish Liturgy Advisory Group & Parish Advisory Group, we are preparing a child friendly space in the church for families.

In short, to ensure a family friendly church.

What might a family friendly church look like?:

- Most importantly we will welcome families to Sunday Mass.
- We will do our best to make families feel comfortable at Sunday Mass.
- Children are children, so while we teach them to grow into adult worshippers, we accept that they might do child type things. We will be patient with them when they do that.
- The Sunday Mass is the key time that the Catholic community gathers. Therefore, we need to accept that there might be a level of noise as people and families greet each other. This is not a quiet contemplative time. If you are someone who likes to prepare for Mass with quiet contemplation, perhaps set time aside at home before you come to the church.
- At the same time, we will be providing a carpeted area in the hall space at the church for families who do like to take their children to one side, or feel the need to let them do some activity for a bit.
- This 12 square meter of carpet will have books and colouring type activities. Toys present a hygiene challenge in the current age, so we won't supply any at this stage.

Parish Information

- *"Liturgy begins in the carpark"* – we will greet and welcome each other, including children and young people, with a smile.

Children, young people and families, are not the "future of the Church", they are already an important part of the Church! We want them to feel welcome to join in the Sunday Mass.

How will we know when we are a family friendly church? When people say: *"Go to St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, they really welcome families there – they really understand what it's like to have young children."*

As we settle into our parish church at Johnsonville, we will be looking to introduce other family friendly initiatives.

Joe Green

St Benedict's: Calling Former Choir Members and Any Interested Parishioners

You are invited to join in leading the singing of a motet at our final Mass on **Sunday, 12th February at 9am.**

Please contact Judith, ph: 021 203 1144, if you would like to sing with us.

Lenten Reflection Group

During Lent, there will be a weekly Lenten Reflection Group, every Friday at 10.30am. This will be held at Pat Collier's house. This will begin on 24th February.

If you would like to join this group, please register with the office, email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz.

Lent

This Lent our parish outreach group will be offering Lenten reflection groups focussing on how each of us can be the light of the world in our communities.

For more information contact Jo-Anne Carley, Phone: 022 300 7413, Email: jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz

Malvina Major - Lenten Group

Those at Malvina Major who are interested in joining a Lenten reflection, please contact Judith Shroff - ph: 021 203 1144

Parish Information

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.



Other Events/Notices

Waitangi Day Mass

Nau mai, haere mai! The customary Waitangi Day Mass to pray for this land and all who dwell here under the guardianship of the Treaty will be celebrated on **Monday, 6th February, 9am** at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott St, Wellington.

This Mass combines the choirs of St Mary of the Angels and Te Ngākau Tapu parish for Māori in Porirua. Prayers will be primarily be in Māori, English and Latin along with various other languages.

Celebrant: Cardinal John Dew. Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea. Enquiries to office.manager@smoa.org.nz; (04) 473 8074.

Valentine's Day Mass

Cardinal John Dew will celebrate Mass on, **Tuesday, 14th February 2023 at 6.30pm**, St Joseph's Church, Mount Victoria (152 Brougham St). Mass will be followed by refreshments.

Other Events/Notices

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions (Evening):

Genesis – In the Beginning...

Part 1: The Creation Story (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 27 February, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/16/genesis-in-the-beginning/>

Part 2: Creation of Adam from Whēnua... (Michelangelo) with Dr Christopher Longhurst.

Monday, 06 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$25 (NZD)/session or \$40 (NZD)/2 sessions

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/22/the-creation-of-adam/>

Focus on Target – Draw Fresh Momentum with Laetitia Puthenpadath.

Wednesdays, 15/22 February and 01/08 March, 12.30-1.30pm.

Fee: \$20/session or \$70/4 sessions. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/11/focus-on-target-draw-fresh-momentum/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

Joshua Wellington extends an open invitation to both men and women to come to a MASS followed by a light supper **on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 7:30pm at 'Loaves and Fishes'** next to Anglican Cathedral of St Paul, corner Hill and Molesworth Streets.

Celebrant: Fr Peter Ewart sm, Joshua chaplain

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Donations for People in Auckland - Message from Bishop Steve Lowe

The Diocese of Auckland has set up a way to donate to the people of Auckland who have suffered in the floods. This has been set up though the Catholic Caring Foundation.

They are accepting donations to help our partner agencies deliver vital help to so many. You can make an online donation by clicking on this link:

<https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/>



MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Monsignor John Carde, Marites Exaltacion, Pilar Castillo

Prayers for the Sick: Jessie Hensen, Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Robyn Clarke, 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.

We pray for all those affected by the floods over the last week. May they find strength at this time and continue to support one another.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 4th February - Sunday 12th February

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Sat: 4th February - 5pm
Vigil Mass

Sat: 11th February—5pm
Closing Mass

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 - Closing Mass

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

**CURRENTLY CLOSED
FOR REFURBISHMENT**

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

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

