



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

First Week of Lent 6th March 2022 Year C

Readings: *Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13*

**It seems easier to be God than to love God,
easier to control people than to love people,
easier to own life than to love life.**

Pope Francis has asked the Church to pray deeply during our Lenten Season for peace in Ukraine and end to violence. How easy it is to displace people when ego Centred Power, Greed and Control take hold.

This call for peace can be our priority as we pray for the innocent people in Ukraine. Let this Season of Lent bring reconciliation and peace in this world of ours.

God, assist me this lent to distinguish my wild beasts from my angels. Help me to see how I often confuse one with the other.

The first Sunday of Lent we hear Luke telling us of the temptations of Jesus. Temptations are the desire to do something, especially something unwise or wrong.

The three temptations that Jesus faced are all temptations to the misuse of power for purposes less than God's purpose. Temptations could be named as seeking personal comfort, admiration, recognition, authority, control, and monetary wealth at the expense of others and/or our own integrity.

For me, integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, and easy and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.

That is the example that Jesus provides us in this Gospel. With each temptation that Jesus encountered, he refocused on God's words and God's purpose. He chose courage over comfort. He reminds us that God never chooses power over others, or admiration, or financial wealth. As we journey through Lent, we are invited once again, to choose God's purpose for our lives and to work together for the sake of our world. In our daily lives we are invited to make choices with integrity and to live the way of love with wholeness, authenticity, courage, and compassion. The path is before us ... the choice is ours.

Merciful God be with me in times of trouble and want. Guide me on Your path of wholeness.

For Personal Reflection:

I am most in need of courage when I am faced with _____?

Do I intentionally pause and think before I speak, act, or make decisions so that my values are reflective and congruent with my professed values and beliefs?

Fr Pete Roe

Parish Property Review

During 2021 we progressed a review of the parish properties in response to a request from Archbishop John in 2019. He requested the review:

"... identify how many churches the parish needs to cater for its Mass count (taking into account the availability of priests and lay pastoral leaders), and the ideal location of the church or churches. For most, if not all parishes with more than one church, this will mean reducing the number of churches in the parish. Provision for accommodation of priests is part of the review."

He also noted: "You need to be prepared to be radical in your thinking and discernment. The theme of parish amalgamation was "A Future Full of Hope". This hopefilled future will only start to take shape when we honestly and courageously engage with and answer the many questions about our buildings."

The LFT have drafted a response for Archbishop John with consideration of the consultation we had during 2021. This draft is available [here](#) on the parish website and printed copies are available in each church.

Appendix 2 is also available on the website [here](#).

In summary the draft response proposes:

The Johnsonville property to become the single parish Mass and Mission centre given its centrality, connection to St Brigid's school, proximity to public transport, opportunities to connect with other local churches and social agencies and the proposed re-development of the Johnsonville mall site.

St Andrew's church in Newlands will ultimately be closed. In the interim, the Newland's presbytery can continue to be used for subsidised refugee housing as is currently the case. Options should be investigated during the next 12 months for the lease of the site for a housing development (so that the Parish can continue to provide some housing for refugees or other families in need of support and to obtain some commercial benefit), or for a school or alternatively the sale of the site. The redevelopment of the Newlands site could incorporate a small purpose built social centre/ worshipping space.

St Benedict's church and presbytery in Khandallah;

1. the church be reconfigured as proposed by St Benedict's school to improve use, and options developed to refurbish or redevelop the presbytery site for housing, or
2. the site be redeveloped for housing to provide an income stream to support the parish pastoral activities, or
3. church and presbytery should be sold

The LFT encourage parishioners to consider the draft and think about this not from their own perspective but from a whole parish perspective. Rather than think about what we have had in the past think about what we need as a parish in the future. We welcome feedback from parishioners on this draft either by email to propreview@stfrancisohariu.nz or in writing which can be mailed to the parish office or left in boxes in our church foyers.

Your feedback is requested by **Sunday 6 March.**

Leadership Formation Team



FAREWELL AND THANK YOU - Kitty & Thomas

Dear Parishioners.

It has been three years since Cardinal John appointed our Leadership Formation Team to lead the Parish. And so, it is with sadness and a sense of loss that we announce the withdrawal from the team of two of our foundation members, Kitty McKinley and Thomas Davis. Both signaled in early 2021 their intention to step down from the team at this time. Each of them has devoted an enormous amount of time and energy in the service of our Parish.

Kitty and Thomas have been key to addressing the needs and expectations of our parishioners, community stakeholders and our Parish partners, the Society of Mary and the Archdiocese. Whilst we will miss them on the LFT – they are not lost to the community and will continue to serve in Parish ministries. Kitty will be focusing on the Parish's sacramental programme and community outreach – and Thomas will continue as Chair of the Finance Committee and will assist in our various operational projects. We are delighted that we are retaining their gifts of knowledge and skill.

On behalf of the LFT and on the community's behalf I thank them for their long and generous service and for their willingness to continue to serve and support our Parish community.

Blessings,

Shane Dinnan, Chair, LFT

Cardinal John Dew has asked us to Pray alongside the Ukrainian Community

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of the Ukraine, for their country and their leader.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace in Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

Reflection for First Sunday of Lent

Please click the link below for a reflection from Joe Green

<https://youtu.be/dc2feYqGXoE>

Sacramental Programme Update: Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation

Because of the uncertainties regarding Covid at this stage the Parish Sacramental programme will now, **not** begin in March.

All things being equal – children, the sacramental team and the parent volunteers being available and not in isolation!.... the programme will begin in the first week of April.

There will be three options for the children that will be sent out in the Sacramental Programme flyer and enrolment form in two weeks.

Option one: the programme will be offered after school, probably on a Tuesday;

Option 2 the programme will be offered on a Sunday afternoon at 3pm and

Option 3 the programme will be offered for two block days 10-4pm in the April school holidays.

We are still working on venues and practicalities relating to the nuts and bolts of the programme and the well-being of all concerned.

This is an ever changing time and it is hard to plan. And all will be well! So please be patient, be kind and watch out for information in the parish newsletter which is the best channel for communication.

Covid Vaccine Passes Mandatory at all Masses and Liturgies

New Zealand is now in **Red** under the Covid-19 Protection framework.

Everyone aged over 12 and 3 months must show a Covid MyVaccine pass when you come to a Mass or Liturgy and masks are mandatory. Social distancing is essential.

Under **Red** you will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive. Masses will be limited to 100 people. You **will** need to book for weekend Masses and Word and Communion Liturgies.

Bookings are essential as numbers are limited. To book your place please go to the Archdiocese website and register or click on the [link](#)

Please note bookings for weekend Masses open at **9.00am Wednesday** and close at **12pm Friday**.

Everyone over 12 and 3 months will need a pass. You can get a pass at <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-certificates/my-vaccine-pass/> If you don't have a computer, phone: 0800 222 478 and have your NHI number ready.

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

Please [click here](#) for a very useful guide on being prepared for Covid19.

For more information on life under the Red Traffic Light Framework [click here](#).

If you are isolating and need support, you can call the COVID Welfare Phone Line on 0800 512 337. The helpline is open seven days a week.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at the following Churches:

St Benedict's Church:

Every Wednesday at 7.00pm on
9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March and 6th April

St Andrew's Church:

Every Friday at 6.00pm on
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March and 1st, 8th April.



Reflect: The state of our minds, and that of our families and fellow parishioners is a major factor in looking after each other during this intense time of Covid.

We've had two years of Covid. People may be a little anxious, under stress and perhaps just a little tired.

Under those conditions it's easier to be distracted.

Take the time to think about your state of your mind, think about that of others also.

That way – we are watching out for each other in the best way possible.

Look out for each other, be kind, stay safe sums it up as we head toward the omicron peak. **Joe Green**

Let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life. Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely.

Pope Francis, [Message for Lent 2022](#)

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.



Upcoming Events/Notices

SYNOD—Pope Francis and Cardinal John have invited us to participate in the 2021 Synod. For more information on the SYNOD please [click here](#)

Questionnaire: You can also complete a Synod questionnaire online [here](#)

Church Mission is offering Zoom sessions for those who have not been able to join a Synod group in their parish., as follows:

Monday 21st March 11.00am-12 noon, Tuesday 22nd March 2.00pm-3.00pm and Wednesday 23rd March at 7.00pm

Registrations are essential, please email:

l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz



"This Synod is the largest consultation process in the world, ever"
Bishop Vincent Long—16 February 2022

Ss. Peter and Paul's - 100 years celebration

This year is 100 years since Ss. Peter and Paul's Johnsonville separated from Lower Hutt and became a parish in its own right.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Would you like to help plan the celebration.

Contact Pat Collier - tchpat.collier@gmail.com, ph: [04]4786230 or mobile 0212943960.

Joshua Wellington will hold a ZOOM meeting on Thursday 17th March 2022 starting 7:30pm until 8:30pm. If you're not already receiving Joshua emails, contact **Steve Ready 027-356-9555, for Zoom details.**

NZ Catholic free digital issue

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/e25bfeca-e399-42ba-9da3-2a0caa12f2ee>

ONLINE SEMINAR: LIVING LAUDATO SI' IN LENT 2022

Thursday 10 March, 7.30-8.30pm

The Wellington EJP Commission's Integral Ecology Committee is offering an online seminar in Lent to assist individuals and families who would like to live more simply by reducing their carbon footprint part of Lenten practice. All are welcome. Presenters: Estelle and Stuart Henrys and Mgrs Gerard Burns. Please contact l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz to be emailed the online meeting details.

MASS INTENTIONS



We ask for your prayers:

Prayers for the Sick: Myra Oh, Fr David Dowling, Rosemary Molloy, Graeme Gorton, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Tau So'oa, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell.

Please also remember in your prayers those that are supporting them.

We pray for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19. We also pray for New Zealand and all those working to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 6th March - 12th March

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

Sun: 10.30am - Mass
Mon: 9.00am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am - Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass -
Cancelled this week.

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass
Friday: 6.00pm Stations of
the Cross

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday: 9.00am - Word &
Communion Liturgy
Monday: 9.00am - Liturgy
Monday: 7.00pm - Meditation
Tuesday: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wednesday: 9.00am &
Wednesday: 7.00pm Stations
of the Cross
Thursday: 9.00am - Liturgy
Friday: Exposition 8.30am and
Liturgy at 9.00am

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

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Phone: 04 478 7137

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

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

