



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Transfiguration of the Lord 6th August 2023, Year A
Readings:: Daniel 7:9-10,13-14, Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 17:1-9

Transfiguration of the Lord



Moments of transfiguration whether for Old Testament prophets, mystics or ourselves reveal the sacramental nature of the world that surrounds us.

For Moses it was the burning bush; for the 20th Century contemplative Thomas Merton it was an ordinary street corner, that can become an instrument for an encounter with God, just as in the sacraments, ordinary objects like bread and wine and water become charged with God's transformative power.

In fact, the whole of creation can reveal God to us in this sacramental way. While we may seek out sacred places, because they 'tune' us more readily to experience God's presence, God is not limited to these distant places. God can just as well be seen on a street corner as at a cathedral. If we can but learn to see it, everywhere we look is ablaze with the glory of God.

The good news is that we can learn to see this glory and recognise it. All of us can develop our inner eye simply by practicing the presence of God in everything. And this practice can help us to develop and grow, comes about in ordinary places, through ordinary activities.

We don't necessarily have to go to the monastery, or to the mountain top, or any particular place. Even Jesus tells us "Go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who sees in secret" (Matthew 6:6).

Practicing the presence of God simply means spending time in prayer and being still before God. This practice attunes our inner eye to see the world as full of God's glory, to see other people as shining with God's love. Spending time with God, we learn to see as God sees.

Peter Mulqueen

Parish Information

Feast of the Assumption - 15th August

Assumption and Christmas are the only two Holy Days of Obligation in New Zealand.

There will be 3 Masses in our Parish for the Feast of the Assumption, as follows:

Monday, 14th August - Vigil Mass at 7pm

Tuesday, 15th August - St Benedict's School Mass at 11.30am

Tuesday, 15th August - St Brigid's School Mass at 1.45pm

Everyone is welcome at any of these Masses

Appeal

The Parish is helping a Newlands solo mum after a house fire on Monday 24th July. Please see the [parish website](#) for details of an appeal.

Jo-Anne Carley

Interested in Helping with our AV System?

Paul Whitehouse, who installed our AV system, will give an overview of the system on, **Wednesday 9th. August 6.00pm** at Church.

Come along if you would like to help in making sure that everything runs smoothly.

Weekly School Liturgy with The Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, **8th August**, 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, **10th August**, 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.





Sacramental Programme

First Communion Mass - **Sunday, 6th August at 2.00pm.**

All Welcome to attend this Mass with the children.

For those that would like to participate in the Confirmation Programme, this will begin on **Sunday, 13th August from 2.00pm - 4.30pm.** [Click here](#) for full dates.

If you have not already registered and would like to, please [click here](#) for details, or 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**

The Use of Te Reo Māori in the Mass

From time to time we hear comments about "Why are we using Māori in the Mass?". Sometimes it's followed by some phrase like "we don't have any Māori people here".

Monsignor Gerard Burns has answered these questions in full in the attached article.

https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/on-language-within-the-nz-church/

To this I would add that the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi. I think that Fr Tim Duckworth's SM reply when challenged on this recently says it all: "We were there!". The Catholic Bishop of the day was present at Waitangi and engaged in the dialogue.

It takes time to work this all through. Each of the three church communities that combined into St Francis of Assisi Ohariu back in February were at different stages of introducing Te Reo Māori into the Mass.

We need to be patient with each other as we move into a shared common understanding.

Joe Green

Transfiguration: Matt: 17:1-9 - Power In the Valley

If we want to see the momentary power of the mountain top become a reality, we must be comfortable leaving the excitement of the moment on the mountain top and descent into the valley where the power lies.

You need to understand that Peter's desire to build tents on the mountain would have kept Jesus in that moment.

But I'm so glad that Jesus showed Peter that there was power in the valley. Jesus showed Peter that it's in the valley that blind eyes are open. Jesus showed Peter that it's in the valley that the sick are healed. Jesus showed Peter that it's in the valley that the lame begin to walk. Jesus showed Peter that it's in the valley that the oppressed get liberated.

The danger of "God on the mountaintop" Christianity, is that it prompts me to compartmentalise my life.

As if God is somehow more present during a rousing choral anthem, a stirring sermon, or a silent retreat in a seaside resort, than God is when I'm doing the laundry, buying my groceries, sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic or the classroom, in the kitchen or at the bedside of a sick spouse or friend.

Mountaintop Christianity is addictive, leading us to spend our days pursuing a "high" we conflate with spiritual success.

When we *don't* experience that high, we feel empty, unloved, angry, or bored. Meanwhile, we don't notice the ever-present God in whom we actually live and move and have our being.

Desperate for the mountain, we miss the God of the valley, the conference room, the pharmacy, the office, the school yard, the dining table etc.

Worshiping the extraordinary doesn't make for a healthy, living and encountering faith.

Pete sm



Let Us Pray

Please continue to pray for survivors of abuse in care, those that support survivors, the Royal Commission and all those who work to make church environments places of safety for all community.

With the release of the report from St John of God Brothers into the abuse in care we acknowledge the deep sadness that goes with this for all the communities throughout New Zealand.

Pray for those who have suffered abuse.

E te Atua o te Tūmanako, God of Hope.

Listen to the prayers of your people,
over harm done to those who should have been safe in care.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
show us the way to healing and wholeness.

E Hehu, ko te Heparā, Jesus, the shepherd.

Join to your own suffering the pain
of all who experience suffering in body, mind, and spirit.
May we continue along the path,
of following your example.

E te Wairua Tapu, Holy Spirit.

Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice and all may find peace in you.
Strengthen us for the journey ahead,
calling all of us into communion with you.

Amene



Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Parish Information

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Are you a young adult searching for the meaning of life?

We have an invitation for you! Alpha is coming to our parish - a place to connect with others as you explore the big questions in life.

Join us and bring your mates along for a shared meal, an episode on a topic of faith, a chance to ask questions and share ideas.

All are welcome to attend.

Join us for a **PROMO NIGHT** on **Tuesday 8th August, 6:30pm** in our church hall.

To register, email alpha@sfrancisohariu.nz.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Lucienne Hensel



Other Events/Notices

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

Other Events/Notices

Joshua Wellington

Invites men to join us **on Thursday 17th August at 7:30pm at the 'Loaves and Fishes' next to Anglican Cathedral of St Paul**, corner Hill and Molesworth Streets followed by supper.

Theme: “**Forgive your brother from the heart**”.

Guest speaker: **Fr James Lyons**

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra, ph: 027-447-7280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

ST BRIGID'S PRESENTS
Shade Sail Fundraiser Quiz
1841 BAR-RESTAURANT
Sunday 13 August - 7pm start
AMAZING RAFFLE PRIZES!!

Staglands
HANGDOG INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING CENTRE
easy swim
NEW WORLD

Notices - Titipounamu Study & Joy

Women in the Bible with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug & 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series. 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/>

More information: www.studyjoy.nz

World Youth Day WELLINGTON Event!

Sunday 6th August, 1pm – 8pm at Bishop Viard College Porirua.

Organised by the Archdiocese of Wellington's Tuākana Youth Ministers.

Register for free tickets here or sign up at the door: <https://bit.ly/46XK0FC>

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Decased: Mary Tresch, Philip Thomson, Bruce Perry

Anniversaries: Marie de Joux, David Shroff, Chong Ming Teo

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

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 5th August - Friday 11th August

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

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|--------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Sat: | 5.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sun: | 10.00am Mass and 2.00pm First Holy Communion 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, 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

