



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Easter Sunday 9th April 2023, Year A

Readings:: Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9

Reflection

In the northern hemisphere, Christians' celebration of Easter happens as the new growth and warmth of spring bursts forth, chickens hatch and baby rabbits are born. Meanwhile, in the southern hemisphere, nature speaks to us more of dying at this time.

I've been reflecting on this while recalling my earliest memories of the Easter vigil as a 9-year-old altar boy. The service mesmerised me ... the lighting and blessing of the fire outside followed by the procession of the Easter candle into the darkened church; the passing on and gradual spread of the light from the large candle to those carrying individual candles; the flickering light inexorably filling the church.

No theological formation or explanation was required as I was swept along by senses – sight and smell – overwhelmed into a moving experience of the transcendent goodness and power of our loving God palpably present: "Death where is thy sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55) The dark and shocking memories of the brutal torture, mocking and bloody execution of Jesus giving way to the joyful recounting of the incredulous resurrection story: "Christ our light," the priest intoned as we slowly and silently processed, to which we all sang in unison, "Thanks be to God." It was liturgy at its best – something I was totally immersed in.

John O'Donohue writes a beautifully in *Anam Cara* about our need for a new and gentle light where the soul can shelter and rediscover its ancient belonging to God. He reminds us that we are children of the darkness, our body and our face formed in the darkness of our mother's womb; our birth the first journey of many from darkness into light. "Once human beings begin to search for a meaning to life," says O'Donohue, "light becomes one of the most powerful metaphors to express the eternity and depth of life."

So, even as the nights are getting colder and longer, and at the very time that the autumn rhythms speak of the importance of letting go and remind us of the natural cycle of life and death that defines all of creation, including human life, the Easter liturgies, with their focus on the light of

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Christ risen, reveal the eternal presence of God walking with us; a presence that no darkness can overcome (John 1:5).

Just as the breaking dawn reveals the beauty of the world previously immersed in darkness, so the light of Christ risen illuminates the beauty that is in each of us. It's a light we cannot hide from and a light that cannot be extinguished, truly something to rejoice in and celebrate.

Christ our light – thanks be to God.

John Kleinsman

Holy Week Timetable

Holy Thursday - 6th April

7.00pm Mass

Good Friday - 7th April

10.00am Family Liturgy
11.00am Ecumenical Walk
3.00pm Liturgy

Easter Vigil - 8th April

7.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday - 9th April

10.00am Mass

Good Friday Family Liturgy 10.00am

This is a special liturgy prepared for families. Come and be at the foot of the cross. Be with Jesus on his way to Calvary. Place a message at the foot of the cross. Spend time in prayer.

At 11.00a.m the Ecumenical Walk of the cross will start at the Uniting Church and walk down Dr. Taylor Tce, Broderick Rd, up Main Rd to St. John's Anglican church.

It would be good to see many families join in the walk at the conclusion of our family liturgy.

Family Space

There will be **NO** family space available oot any of the Easter celebrations. The family space will be **back** on the weekend 15/16 April.

Thanks & blessings, Pat.

Holy Week



Holy Thursday (sometimes referred to as Maundy Thursday after the Latin mandatum or command to love one another, is a day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus.

In some traditions, there is the washing of the feet of various members of the community to recall a gesture of Christ at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. This is a sign of the need to do more to love one another and to serve all people, especially the poor.



Good Friday is a solemn day on which Christians recall the death of Jesus and its promise of hope and new life. In some traditions a wooden cross is set up and people spend time meditating before it.

Other people make the Stations of the Cross a devotion that recalls the journey of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to Calvary where he was crucified. (In Jerusalem the place of Christ's death and resurrection is commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

Many Christians keep this devotion but also see in the suffering of Jesus a reminder to be more concerned for the suffering of people in today's world. For many Christians, this day is also a day of fasting and penance.



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. While our society puts a major emphasis on Christmas, no other day is traditionally as sacred for the Christian community as Easter. This is the day Christians commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

In some traditions, the services begin the night before with the lighting of a new fire and the blessing of a large Easter candle. Water is blessed and many are baptized. But for all Christians, this is a day to renew one's faith.

In the Catholic Church, there is a sprinkling of all people with the newly blessed Easter water as a sign of renewal of our baptismal commitment. In many Protestant communities, Easter is celebrated at a sunrise service early on Easter morning. Easter usually ends with festive celebrations with special foods and Easter delicacies.

Pete sm

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An evening together to explore together...

The greatest among you must behave as if he were the youngest, the leader as if he were the one who serves. — Luke 22:26

That statement is probably the simplest and most powerful definition of spiritual authority to be found in all four Gospels.

"For who is the greater, the one at table or the one who serves?" Most of us would say immediately, "The one at table." Yet Jesus says, "Yet here I am among you as one who serves" ([Luke 22:27](#)).

Jesus says, in effect,

'I'm telling you that the way of domination will not build a new world. I have come to model for you the way to be fully human which is to be divine and exercise authority as God does.'

Often the church has not even understood or even agreed with this. In much of our history we have pretty much exercised authority and imposed laws and punishments in the same way as our secular society. This is surely not Jesus' servant leadership.

As we move forward within our Parish, I would like to invite you to an evening (a couple of hours) as we begin the walk with one another as we explore a new way of being Church with others that is characterised by humility, compassion, love and listening. Servant Leadership.

To show interest email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Pete sm

Church Wedding

Scott Davidson and Cindy Khor are pleased to announce that the wedding of their eldest daughter Kai Yin Davidson-Khor to Julian Schurhammer is taking place at **2.00pm on Saturday, 15th April** at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church.

You are more than welcome to celebrate with Kai Yin and Julian at their wedding Mass.

Parish Information

Property Update

St Benedict's Church is closed and religious items are being removed so we can request the Archdiocese to provide a Deed of Deconsecration. This process will take a few months as the Council of Priests needs to consider our request and they next meet in May.

St Andrew's has continued to be used by two other religious groups. This arrangement will stop after Easter. We will then remove religious items and make a request for deconsecration.

Significant Items being removed will be stored for possible future use. Some items are being gifted to other churches or disposed of if not considered significant.

The layout of the refurbished Parish Church has always been intended as a trial. Over the last few weeks we have received feedback from Parishioners. Thank you for this. After Easter we will reflect on the current church layout and consider any changes to be trialled for the next few months.

A decision now needs to be made on the future of the Khandallah and Newlands properties. A proposal will be provided to parishioners for feedback after Easter before seeking approval from the Archdiocese on how we will proceed.

Finance Committee

Easter Dues

During this time, if you do have Easter planned giving envelopes they can be placed in the baskets at any mass. If you don't and would like to make a contribution, you can place an envelope in the basket, but please mark Easter Due on this, or if paying by AP, just reference Easter dues in the payment field.

On behalf of the Parish team, we would like to wish you a blessed and safe Easter.

Easter Sunday - Shine TV

Shine TV will be televising an Easter Sunday Mass on Shine TV, 2pm, Freeview Channel 25, Sky TV Channel 201. For anyone who may not be able to attend Easter Sunday Masses.

Parish Information

Anzac Day Liturgy Saint Francis of Assisi, Ohariu Parish Church April 25th 4 p.m.

You are invited to this Anzac Day Liturgy.

Our Challenge 2000 Youth whānau are preparing this ecumenical Service to remember all those who have served their countries and to pray for Peace.

Please invite your friends and family as we reflect on this important date in the history of Aotearoa.

Children, young people and adults are invited to wear their uniforms if they wish and also to bring photos and/or memorabilia of whānau members who may have served in any of our wars or times of conflict. We will place them near our altar as part of our Liturgy.

After our Liturgy we will have soup and buns and of course ANZAC Biscuits! All provided.

Please contact Marie Paurini 027 283 8580 or Kitty McKinley 021 491 459. if you have any suggestions/ideas/talents to share. Everyone is welcome. Kia ora.

Newlands Passionist Group

Invites One & All
Housie Nite

Saturday 20th May 2023, 6.30pm

Newlands Community Centre
Entry \$15.00 / 3 games, Children free, DJ Music

BYO Beverages & Nibbles

Hot soup & buns for the first fifty,
Proceeds for Refugee Fund / SPCA

Please RSVP

**Kerry - 027 311 6618, Jenny - 021 1115 8441, Nirmala - 021 108 2074
Stephanie - 021 189 3441**

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Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental Programme for 2023 will begin in the next few weeks.

Registration brochures will be available in the church foyers and from the Parish Office.

This programme offers preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion / Eucharist and Confirmation. The Programme will begin with Reconciliation.

For Reconciliation we will be offering a one day Programme option, which will begin on the second week of the school holidays.

Reconciliation Dates as follows:

Option 1:

Full Day Course, Tuesday, 18th April, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Option 2:

Sunday, 23rd April,

Sunday 30th April and

Sunday, 7th May - all sessions will be at 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Everyone will then need to attend a final meeting and practice on:

Friday, 12th May, 4.30m - 6.30pm

The Reconciliation Service will be on - **Sunday, 14th May, 4.00pm**

All sessions will be held at: St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish,
37 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville.

Bookings can be made through the Parish Office.

If you have any queries, you can contact Kitty on 021 491 459 or the Parish Office, (04) 478 7137.

Marist Messenger Reflections

All those who were regular subscribers will know that this magazine has ceased publication but fortunately Fr Jim Dooley has offered us his April reflections which had already prepared.

Please [click here](#) for the reflections.

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Mary Jean O'Donnell, Maureen Tracey
(Designer & Weaver of the Onslow CWL Banner)

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

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Thursday 6th April - Friday 14th April

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Thurs:	7.00pm Mass - Holy Thursday
Fri:	10.00am - Good Friday Family Liturgy 3.00pm - Good Friday Liturgy
Sat:	7.00pm - Easter Vigil Mass
Sun:	10.00am - Easter Mass
Mon:	9.00am - Liturgy
Tue:	9.00am Liturgy (at Brigidine Convent)
Wed:	FUNERAL
Thurs:	9.00am - Liturgy
Fri:	8.30am Exposition and 9.00am Liturgy

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

