



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fourteenth Week Ordinary Time Sunday 9th July 2023, Year A
Readings:: Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9,11-13, Matthew 11:25-30

Reflection

The theme of today's readings is very much one of peace and comfort.

The First Reading from the prophet Zechariah speaks of a king entering Jerusalem riding on a young donkey. The scene is one of humility but also of peace. Jesus is Identified as this King. He is Shalom, the King of peace, of a deep, inner peace.



In today's Gospel Jesus reveals himself to those who have open, trusting, and childlike natures; those who have invited Him to be part of their very being. It is through this relationship that Jesus reveals to them the loving Father heart of God.

Then Jesus issues his special invitation. He says- **Come! come as you are to my gentle, humble and peaceful heart. There you will find a deep abiding peace and the renewing and refreshing of your souls.**

Paul writing to the Romans also reflects the theme of peace and comfort. He writes that if the Spirit of Christ is living in us we become alive in Christ. When the Spirit of Jesus lives and breathes in us we are delivered from the death of sin and so enter into a new and eternal life; a life marked by childlike faith and trust in Jesus, and by His love and deep down inner peace.

Prayer. Lord Jesus we come to you with all our concerns and worries. We commit ourselves and our burdens into your loving care. We pray that through your Holy Spirit dwelling in us we will enter into your deep peace that rests and renews our very being. Amen

Ewen Laurenson

Parish Information

Reconciliation Catch Up

Last Sunday 8 children who had missed out on their First Reconciliation Liturgy because of illness had a special Reconciliation time in our parish church.

All present enjoyed the gospel reading / impromptu drama, the music, prayers, questions, answers and positive experience of love, forgiveness and hope.



On a cool night the warmth and symbolism of the fire warmed everyone inside and out.

All the families who attended were grateful for the chance to be together and to participate in this stage of their child's sacramental and faith journey.

First Holy Communion begins this month so everyone is welcome to enrol and come along. Details below.

Kitty McKinley



Sacramental Programme

If you have not already registered for the Eucharist and Confirmation Programme, and would like to participate, please [click here](#).

The Eucharist Programme begins next week.

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.



Holiday Programme

In the first week of the school holidays, as part of the Parish Community outreach programme, myself and Jess, a youth worker from Challenge 2000 along with 3 young parish volunteers provided an exciting holiday program of fun for some of our Latin American boys.



We hopped in the Challenge 2000 van, loaded up with yummy snacks and took the boys to watch the latest Spiderman film at the cinema in the Hutt. This was definitely a highlight especially because Spiderman spoke a bit in Spanish which the boys loved!

Afterwards we finished the day off playing in the rain at the local playground in Johnsonville. It was a joy to watch the boys run around playing tag and to push them on the swings - they even started a competition to see who could swing the highest!

All in all it was a great way to spend the day and I'm grateful to have had an opportunity to spend time with this great group of kids.

Fiona Roberts - Youth Minister

Volunteer Training

8 participants from 5 different cultures attended this Outreach volunteer training run by Kitty last Sunday.

It was very interesting hearing about service, how to relate to other cultures and some of the do's and don't do's of all the different cultures. We are all so different and what is okay in one, is very different in another.

We identified and shared some of our own strengths and why we volunteer and want to make a difference.

It was good that Father Pete came too and also said that he learnt a lot and wanted more meetings like this to be held. So do we and hopefully the next meeting will help us to continue on our pathway of care and volunteering. **Maria Puerta**



Parish Information

Safeguarding Workshops

The Parish invites all volunteers in Ministries in the Parish involved with children and vulnerable adults, to a workshop on Safeguarding as we practice it in the Archdiocese.

Safeguarding builds on gospel values of respect, dignity and justice in protecting the vulnerable from harm, and building a new culture of safeguarding in our churches where all feel welcome and safe. "

The workshop is an update as to current practice as it is emerging following the Royal Commission, so everyone in Ministry with children and vulnerable adults is encouraged to participate.

It is being offered twice on:

Thursday, 13th July 2023: at 4.30pm and then again at 7pm, in the parish hall.

Please register your attendance with Joe Green at joe@stfrancisohariu.nz

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.





The Butterfly (Struggles)

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly.

One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

Until it suddenly stopped making any progress and looked like it was stuck. So the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, although it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

The man didn't think anything of it and sat there waiting for the wings to enlarge to support the butterfly. But that didn't happen. The butterfly spent the rest of its life unable to fly, crawling around with tiny wings and a swollen body.

Despite the gracious heart of the man, he didn't understand that the restricting cocoon and the struggle needed by the butterfly to get itself through the small opening; were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings. To prepare itself for flying once it was out of the cocoon.

Moral of the story:

Our struggles in life develop our strengths.

Without struggles, we never grow and never get stronger.

So it's important for us to tackle challenges and not be relying always on help from others.

Pete sm



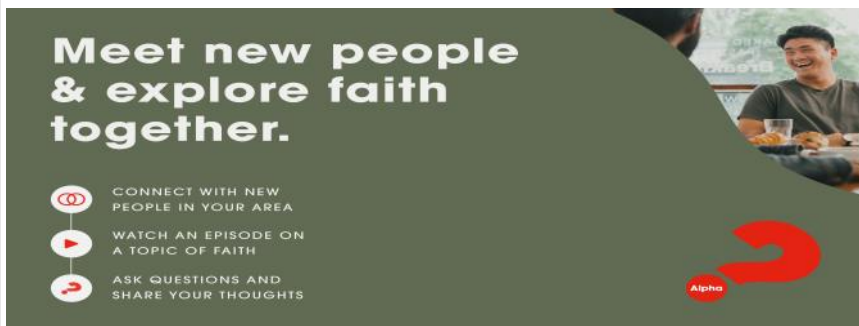
Parish Information

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Connect with new people in your area;
Watch an episode on a topic of faith;
Ask questions and share your thoughts.

For further information about this course please email:

alpha@stfrancishariu.nz



Meet new people
& explore faith
together.

- CONNECT WITH NEW PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA
- WATCH AN EPISODE ON A TOPIC OF FAITH
- ASK QUESTIONS AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Alpha

The graphic features a dark green background with a white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders on the left. On the right, there is a photograph of a young man smiling and eating. A large red question mark is positioned on the right side of the graphic.

Other Events/Notices

Joshua Wellington

Joshua Wellington invites men to join us on **Thursday 20th July at 7:30pm** at the 'Loaves and Fishes' next to Anglican Cathedral of St Paul, corner Hill and Molesworth Streets followed by supper.

Small group activity based on theme: "Come to me – learn from me"
Want to know more? Ring David Monastra ph: 027-447-7280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School 2024 - Only 20 Spaces Left!

Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School is back again this summer with ten days of world-class lectures, uplifting prayer and authentic community!

Hearts Aflame is a life-changing experience for young adults aged 18 to 35 who want to know more about their faith, have an authentic encounter with Christ and meet other Catholic young adults from all over New Zealand.

Join us this year at Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton, from 29/12/23 until 7/01/23!

Visit heartsaflame.org.nz to register or find out more.

Other Events/Notices

Matariki Event

The Focolare Movement have organised an Ecumenical event.

Anthony Gomez from the Wellington Astronomical Society will be giving a presentation about the stars, Matariki and the challenge of climate change. There will also be an opportunity to view the night sky using telescopes.

Venue: St John's Anglican Hall, 18 Bassett Road, Johnsonville

Time: Friday, 14th July, 5.30pm –9.00pm

Bring: A plate to share and warm clothes, blanket, gloves etc

Donation: To contribute towards the hall

Contact: Robert McClean, ph: 022 067 655 or
email: mcleanrobert@gmail.com

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Mary in the Scriptures with Kieran Fenn
fms.

Monday, 10 July, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: free. Donation/Koha appreciated.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/04/25/mary-in-the-scriptures/>

Beauty in Islam with Dr Christopher E.
Longhurst

Saturday, 22 July, 10.00-11.30pm.

ZOOM.

Fee: \$25/session.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/beauty-in-islam/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz



SAVE THE
Date
13Aug 6pm

ST BRIGID'S
QUIZ NIGHT

1841 - Johnsonville

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Lis Grigg, Fr George Kanellis

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

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 8th July - Friday 14th July

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 - Funeral**
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

