



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fourth Week of Lent 10th March 2024, Year B

Readings:: Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21

Reflection

Today's Scriptures highlight the themes of 'looking' and 'seeing'. **We know from experience that two people can look at the same thing but see very different things.**

That includes seeing people/situations/the world differently from God. As the book of Samuel reminds: *"Not as humankind sees does God see, because humankind sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."*

Samuel looks at the impressive "appearance and lofty stature" of Eliab, the eldest son of Jesse, and sees the ideal next king of Israel. God, however, goes for the youngest insignificant son, David, whom Jesse did not even think enough of to invite to the line-up.

In the Gospel, meanwhile, a blind man has his physical sight restored by Jesus but, in a literary twist, it quickly becomes apparent that it is the Pharisees who are really blind – looking at Jesus and seeing "a sinner" rather than the "Son of Man".

Thus, when we carefully unpack today's Gospel story, the real issue isn't physical blindness but spiritual blindness – an inability to recognise Jesus' true identity and presence in our lives.

Today's Gospel, then, is not so much about a man cured some 2000 years ago but about each of us recognising and owning our own interior blindness. There is a bit of Pharisee in each of us. Therefore, the question of the Pharisees to Jesus (in the longer form of today's Gospel) is one for each of us to own: "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" – in our case it serves as a rhetorical question.

How do we come to see the world and others as God sees? Firstly, by listening to God and allowing God's word to change our heart, since it is what is in our heart that ultimately shapes what we see. Secondly, by knowing where to look for God, and we might be surprised about where God is to be found.

As Fr John O'Connor writes: "Christian prayer is experienced when I wake up to the fact that God in Jesus Christ is present in the midst of whatever circumstances I am living today ..."

John Kleinsman

Parish Information

Weekday Liturgies

Due to changed circumstances we have made alterations to the weekday liturgy timetable.

Please note new weekday liturgy timetable below:

Monday:	NONE
Tuesday:	9.15am School Liturgy in the Church
Wednesday:	10.30am Reconciliation 11.00am Mass
Thursday:	9.00am Liturgy Church
Friday:	9.00am Liturgy Church

Please note there will be **NO Exposition** on a Friday. This timetable will be reviewed after Easter.

Holy Week Timetable

Palm Sunday Weekend - 23rd / 24th March

5.00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass
10.00am - Sunday Mass

Holy Thursday - 28th March

7.00pm Mass

Good Friday - 29th March

10.00am Stations of the Cross
11.00am Ecumenical Walk
3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord

Easter Vigil - 30th March

7.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday - 31st March

10.00am Mass

Parish Information

Reconciliation

Details as follows for Rite I and Rite II Reconciliation in St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish and the Pastoral Area during the Lent.

Rite 1 Reconciliation

I will be available on the following Fridays during Lent while the Stations of the Cross are taking place at **6.30pm** in the Parish Church:

8th March, 15th March, 22nd March

Rite II Reconciliation

My brother priests and myself will supply in the other parishes around the pastoral area during Lent by these now confirmed times and dates:

Sunday, 10th March - St Theresa's Parish Plimmerton - **4pm**

Thursday, 14th March - St Francis of Assisi Parish Ohariu (us), Jville - **6pm**

Wednesday 20th March - Holy Family Parish, Porirua East - **6pm**.

Blessings,

Father Alfred Tong

Lenten Stations of the Cross

The Lenten Stations of the Cross are taking place every Friday during Lent. Dates as follows:

8th March, 15th March, 22nd March

They will begin at **6.30pm** and will be held at our Parish Church, St Francis of Assisi Ohariu.

All Parishioners are welcome to join in this Lenten reflection.

If any person or group is interested in helping lead these evenings, please phone:

Solomon Concessio on ph: 021 201 7160 or

email your details to concessio.solomon@gmail.com Kia ora



Parish Information

Handyperson Required

As the parish has a few buildings there are small jobs that need to be done from time to time.

We would like to have a volunteer with DIY skills who can fix simple things and organise tradies to do special jobs when required. It would only be a few hours each month. Any expenses would be reimbursed.

Please contact the office if you can help.

Malvina Major

An Anointing Mass will be celebrated at Malvina Major on **Tuesday, 19th March at 10.30am**. This will be followed by morning tea.

For any enquires, please contact Judith, ph: 021 203 1144.

Passionist Family Group - March 2024

Newlands Group St Pats Day Dinner - Sunday, 17th March
CD Group Afternoon Tea, Watsons - TBC

Would you like to join a group for fun, fellowship and community building?

Please contact - John & Kerry Kleinsman: 027 3116618 or 027 846 7489,



Weekly School Liturgy with The Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, **12th March**, 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, **14th March**, we will be having our liturgy with St Benedict's School, in the school classrooms 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.



Children's Day

Last Sunday we had our Children's Day Mass! It was an awesome event with heaps of kids, parents and grandparents turning up. Mass was led by Monsignor Gerry, who did a great job of keeping the kids interested.

The Mass began with a few readings, read by some very talented children. Then a children's play- which was an adaptation of *Matthew 21:12-14*, when Jesus got angry at the shopkeepers selling things in a temple. The children were very brave, and very adaptable, as some of them joined about 20 minutes before the mass started! During the mass the younger kids got to do some colouring in, one of the pieces was shown at the end, a very cute pink and purple treasure chest.

There was a closing prayer, where all the children came to the front of the Church to be blessed, and they walked out to a tweaked version of 'this little light of mine' - *these children of ours*.

Once outside there was heaps to do, and even more to eat! A bouncy castle, face painting, bean bag tossing! And the food, well let's just say the people serving it were hard pressed. Many parents had brought in yummy homemade snacks: cupcakes, biscuits, rice crispy treats- plus the chippies, juice and fizzy provided by the Church. But it didn't end there, with pizza arriving at 11.30- with enough for the parents and grandparents to have a piece as well.

Overall it was a great Mass- with a great message of treasuring the lights that our children are.



A big thanks to all the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and the Challenge 2000 team who made it possible.

I don't think I saw a single child without a smile on their face :)

Kate Nahu



Parish Information

Sacramental Programme 2024

The enrolment process for the 2024 Parish Sacramental Programme has opened.

For further information please [click here](#). Or alternatively, email: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

Reverence for Life

The **Reverence for Life** group exists in our Parish to promote a "Culture of Life" in which every person born and unborn, is protected and loved. If you are wanting to be part of this group – it is a prayer and action group who are actively seeking ways to show respect for life then please contact Maree, at meag@gmail.com to find out more information.

One of our activities is every three months to present at Mass the "Book of Life". The Book of Life is a record of personal, family, church, school and community events that celebrate special occasions reflecting celebration of life. This "Book of Life" is on display in the church foyer for you to stop and have a look at what has been happening in our vibrant community.

The Book will next be presented on the weekend of the 9th/10th March.

We welcome any contributions to the Book for this presentation from family celebrations to family gatherings. Your contribution of an event not only enriches our "Book of Life" but it helps to build awareness of the preciousness and dignity of life in all its stages from conception to death.

It is easy, either leave a hard copy into the specially marked clear box in the foyer, or there are small cards in the box with Fiona Kearns' details for you to take, or email her direct at fionakearnz@gmail.com

This year we are updating the Reverence for Life sign on the corner of Broderick Road and Moorefield Road.

Look out for this updated image soon!

Thank you for your support.



Other Events/Notices

NZ Catholic

The latest edition of NZ Catholic is now out. As a promotion, a full copy of the newspaper has been made available. Please click the link below.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/ea5d571d-2901-4438-ade4-dd0317002954>

World Day of Prayer

A big thank you to all those who took part in this year's World Day of Prayer service held at St John's Church in Johnsonville. There was a good turnout from the churches in the wider Johnsonville area.

It felt good to pray for and with the Palestinian Christians, and for all those affected by the Gaza war conflict.



Next year's service will be held at the Broderick Rd Chapel and will be written by women from the Cook Islands.

Senior Sunday at Johnsonville Library

When: Sunday, 10th March - 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Where: Johnsonville Library, 34 Moorefield Road

What: Experience what the library has to offer in a special after hours sessions for seniors.

To Register: Ph: (04) 477 6151 or email: johnsonville.library@wcc.govt.nz

Joshua Wellington

Joshua Wellington invites men to join us on **Thursday, 21st March at 7:30pm** in 'Loaves and Fishes' next to Anglican Cathedral of St Paul, corner Hill and Molesworth Streets followed by supper.

Theme: "God reigns - no doubts"

Speaker: To be confirmed

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: Tony De Gregorio

Anniversary: Cath Keen

Prayers for the Sick: Betty Stewart, David Ogilvie, Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Archbishop Novartus Rugambwa, Moe Pio Tafaese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Tony Bordignon, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Peter O'Connell, Fr Frank Whitaker.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 9th March - Friday 15th March

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun: 10.00am Mass
Mon: **NO LITURGY**
Tue: 9.15am Liturgy in the Church with St Brigid's School
Wed: 11.00am Mass - Followed by Morning Tea
Thurs: 9.00am Liturgy
Fri: 9.00am Liturgy

Please note, **Reconciliation** will be held **every** Wednesday 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

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