



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

Second Sunday of Advent 10th December 2023, Year B
Readings:: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11, 2Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist

In 2006 I was on a New Zealand delegation to the UN. I spent a weekend in Montreal before going to New York. It happened to be the feast day of St John the Baptist – patron saint of Montreal. And those people know how to celebrate their patron saint! Motor racing, dancing in the street – fantastic fun.

One of the things that the early Christian community had to deal with was the question of John the Baptist. Jesus's cousin, he lived the life of a prophet. He gathered disciples, Andrew was one of them, and he called people to repentance. His was a repentance expressed through immersion, what we call baptism. He was persecuted, imprisoned and executed. He had the look of being the messiah. Yet, looking back through the lense of the resurrection, with the benefit of hindsight and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Christian community knew he was not the messiah.

They knew that Jesus was the Messiah. And they used Jewish scripture, in this case from Isaiah to explain how John the Baptist fits in.

John the Baptist points the way to Jesus. That's what all the Prophets and all the Saints have done, point the way.

That's what being a disciple is, that's what being a Mission focused church means.

Like John the Baptist, we point the way to the true Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Joe Green



Parish Information

Masses

On the weekend of 23rd / 24th December we will hold the regular Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.00pm.

Note: NO 10.00am Mass on the morning of 24th December, the first Mass for that day will be the 5pm Christmas Eve carols and Mass.

Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 23rd December

5.00pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

5.00pm Carols for 5.30pm Family Mass

7.30pm Carols for 8.00pm Mass

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.00am - Mass

Week of 26th Dec -29th December

No Weekday Mass or Liturgies

Saturday 30th December

5.00pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 31st December

10.00am - Mass

Monday 1st January

10.00am - Mass

Parish Information



Fr Pete's Farewell

As you are all aware Fr Pete's contract with our Parish will finish at the end of January.

We will be so very sorry to see Pete go, however we wish him all the best on his next life journey.

Before Pete leaves, we will have a farewell for him over the weekend of 27th & 28th January - we will have this after both Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass. You are all very welcome to attend. More details to follow

Parish Leadership Team Appointments

Archbishop Paul Martin has announced our Parish Leadership Team from 1st February 2024.

Monsignor Gerard Burns - Parish Priest

Fr Alfred Tong - Assistant Priest

Mr Joe Green - Lay Pastoral Leader

Dang Dinh (John) Quang - Pre-Seminarian in Residence

The team takes their position as of 1st February 2024.

Christmas Eve Family Mass - Carols 5pm - Mass 5.30pm

The photos we took of the children in nativity costume have been inserted in a presentation to be shown at the Christmas Family Mass. As well as this presentation the children will be participating on Christmas Eve.

If your child would like to be involved please contact: Pat Collier
email: tchpat.collier@gmail.com

Children's Liturgy

Today [10th December] was the last children's liturgy session for 2023.

The first session for 2024 will be on Sunday 11th February 2024.

A big thank you to all the leaders who have been involved during the year. We really appreciate your enthusiasm and commitment. The blessings of Christmas be with you all. **Pat Collier**

Year 8 Retreat Day

Last week our Year 8 students from St Brigid's and St Benedict's came together to reflect on their primary school journeys and talk about their transition to college life.



It was a wonderful chance to connect and celebrate with our young people.

Thanks to Nina De Gregorio (an ex-student of St Brigid's) for popping in and speaking to us all and Jigs Ibarra (an ex-student of St Benedict's) for his recorded message to our Year 8's. They shared with the group their experiences graduating from primary to secondary school life.

Thank you to Rose also a past student of St Brigid's who sang so beautifully as each rangatahi were presented with a Tau cross from our St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish.

A special thanks to the kaiako from St Benedict's & St Brigid's, Father Pete and Joe Green for all the preparation and time they gave to make the day so special.

Blessings on our Year 8's.
Love
Your Parish Family.



Johnsonville Christmas Fair

On the 2nd December 2023 we had a choir from Johnsonville Catholic Church sing from 1.30pm -2.30pm at the Johnsonville Christmas Fair.

We had two practices in all but luckily, we had some quite accomplished singers and a professional guitar player so we were carried along by their combined expertise.

There were 8 of us in all, although at one point Cara of the Salvation Army joined for a few songs. This was a great gesture on her part as we had hoped for the choir to be an ecumenical event.

We were very pleased to have given such a witness in that setting, as only our Choir and a stall done by Cara around baby Jesus were reflective of the true meaning of the Christmas season.

We hope our singing helped people remember the "REASON FOR THE SEASON".

Ian Hamilton & Pat Collier



Advent Reflections

Wake Up. The Lord is very near!

To help us prepare this Advent you are invited to a prayer and shared reflection time.

When: The following two Sundays – 10th & 17th December

Note: we have started a week before the first Sunday in Advent because the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve and close to the Christmas vigil Eucharist.

Where: In our Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

Time: From 4.00 to 5.00 pm

Everyone is welcome.

For further information contact:

Wendy – cleaver@actrix.co.nz Judy – judymac@actrix.co.nz

Parish Information

Wednesday Mass

This will now be offered for Theresa MacKezine on Wednesday, 13th December at 11am Mass.

Christmas Giving Appeal

St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 work in partnership providing a foodbank for the needy.

Between now and mid December, please consider increased donations of non-perishable food items to the foodbank. Food will be distributed by this partnership.

You might prefer to donate "cash" - there are two ways that you can do this - in an envelope clearly labelled "helping out at Christmas appeal", or, supermarket gift vouchers. Just pop these into the collection plate. The cash will be turned into supermarket vouchers.

Your gift from the heart - he tuku aroha - could make a difference to families.

Refugee and Migrant Support Team

The Refugee and Migrant support team in the parish in the last month have set up three homes for families moving into Wellington. The families, with nine children between them, have arrived with few belongings.

The families have been supplied with blankets, duvets, linen, kitchen items, crockery, pots, pans and food etc. For two of the families, beds, lounge/ dining furniture were supplied and some whiteware.

We are so grateful for our partners in this outreach; SVDP and Challenge 2000 and all parishioners who generously donate goods or cash. Cash is very useful as we can buy new electrical items such as microwaves and vacuum cleaners and pillows, mattress protectors etc.

Please contact Jo-Anne Carley, Phone 022 300 7413, or email: jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz if you have items to donate. Aroha nui to everyone for being part of this work.



Parish Information



Parish Dance

The Parish Dance was a huge success, dancing, spot prizes and raffles, Santa and fun together enjoyed by all.



Thanks to everyone who supported this community event.

Mass

Mass for those who don't regularly attend: with Eddie Condra and Community Friends.

Saturday, December 23rd at 7pm at St Francis of Assisi Church.

This Mass is sensitive to where people are at on life's journey and is suitable for all age groups. All are welcome.

It will be followed by nibbles and Christmas drinks at the Challenge 2000 big house next door.

Advent Christmas Time Out

Challenge 2000 Youth Workers will lead a day of Carols, Stories, Decorations, Play & Fun.

When: Tuesday, 19th December. 10.00am - 4.00pm

Where: St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Hall

BYO: Lunch & Drinks **Cost:** \$5.00

Contact: Ana - 021 2273754, Gerson - 022 4676881 or Kasileta - 021 0808 3379

Christmas Service Day

21st December in St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Hall. This is a day to help others, paint cards, make decorations & clean the church grounds.

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

BYO: Lunch & Drinks **Cost:** FREE

Contact: Gerson - 022 4676881, Mitch - 022 0218976 or Kitty - 021 491459

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Jacquie Vaughan

Anniversaries: Mary Dorrington, Celine Rodrigues

Prayers for the Sick: Tony de Joux, Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Archbishop Novartus Rugambwa, Moe Pio Tafaese, Jacqui Gilligan, David Clarke, 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 December - Friday 15th December

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 Brigidine Convent)
Wed:	11.00am Mass - Followed by Morning Tea
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

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Parish Bank Account for Donations:

02-0524-0203642-00

