



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

Third Week of Advent, 11th December 2022 Year A
Readings: *Isaiah 35:1-6, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11*

Gaudate Sunday

"With Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. It's never too late. Be courageous. He is near to us and this is the time of conversion. Everyone might think: 'I have this situation inside, this problem that I am ashamed of'. But Jesus is next to you... And we are annoying, but he never gets tired! Let us listen to John the Baptist's appeal to return to God. And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a moment of grace, a grace for us too, here and now!" (Pope Francis, Angelus 4 December 2022)

And today the liturgy invites us to joy! The Advent wreath typically has four candles — three purple and one rose-coloured. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent which is also called *Gaudate Sunday*. Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and symbolizes the joyful anticipation of the season culminating in the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

It is not a superficial or purely emotional cheerfulness, but rather, it entails a more authentic joy, the taste of which we are called to rediscover. "Courage! Do not be afraid." — the Prophet says — "Look, your God is coming... to save you" (Is 35:4). And everything is transformed: the desert blooms, comfort and joy permeate hearts (cf. vv. 5-6). The taste of true joy! It is a joy that touches our innermost being, as we await Jesus, who has come to bring salvation to the world. God has entered history in order to share our existence and to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery.



Christmas is near: decorations, lights, gifts... These outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, wants to be near us. He invites us to recognize Him in each person who pass us by, and to share our joy and hope with others. Let's be ready for Christmas, preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.

Anna Franceschini



St Francis of Assisi Parish – Transitional Church

We have confirmed dates for the closing of each of our churches in January and February 2023 and the opening of the transitional St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church on 19th February.

The planning for the transformation of St Peter and Paul's Church to a Parish Church which looks and feels different is progressing. As we confirm details of the transitional church, we will provide you with some details so it's not a complete surprise.

There are some important principles that apply to this change:

1. Create a spiritual space which is different to what we have known
2. Retain things from our three churches in our transitional church
3. Experiment with different layouts as we plan for a new church
4. Be flexible
5. Be open to new ideas
6. Be welcoming

In order to experiment with different layouts, we will be removing the fixed pews from St Peter and Paul. The transitional church will have a mixture of pews and individual seats which will be movable. We will seek feedback from parishioners and move the furniture to try different layouts from what we have known in our existing churches.

We are considering improving the audio-visual equipment in the church including the hearing loop.

If you use hearing aids, we would be interested to know if you have any issues with the hearing loop. Please contact the Parish Office or someone from the Leadership Team.

Children's Nativity Play – St Benedict's Church



Planning is underway for the final nativity play at St Benedict's Church at the 6pm Christmas Eve Family Mass. We need lots of angels, shepherds, wise men, inn-keepers, animals, and of course Mary and Joseph.

If you (we want to involve anyone who has ever been in a Nativity Play at St Benedict's Church) or your child would like to be involved, please contact

Andrea Lai at calai@outlook.co.nz or on 021 0826 7019.

There will be a practise on Sunday 18 December after the 9:00am Mass.

Parish Information

Mass Times Update

Please find below the timetable for the centralisation to one Mass Centre over the following months.

- 8th January 2023 - 10.30am Mass at Ss Peter & Paul Church
- Ss Peter and Paul Church will then close for a makeover from Monday, 9th January 2023.
- There will be no weekday Masses in the Parish from 26th December 2022 to 18th February 2023.
- An announcement will be made as to whether a Word and Communion Liturgy will be offered during the week over this time. Any weekday Word and Communion Liturgy during the time Ss Peter and Paul is closed would be held at St Benedict's.
- From weekend 14th/15th January 2023 till weekend of 11th/12th February 2023, while Ss Peter and Paul's is closed, there will be two Masses each weekend offered.

They are as follows:

- 5pm Saturday Vigil at St Andrews,
 - 9am Sunday at St Benedict's.
- Weekend of 11th/12th February 2023, St Andrew's Church and St Benedict's Church will close.
 - St Andrew's final Mass, 5pm - 11th February
 - St Benedict's final Mass, 9.00am - 12th February
- Sunday 19th February 2023 at 11am - This will be the opening of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church, (Dr Taylor Terrace). This will be the Parish Mass of the weekend. Details to follow

St Benedict's Hamper Mass 9am Sunday - 11th December

We have 18 families we are supporting in our community this year, the list of families will be in the foyer of the church.

Please bring your hampers to the church on the **11th December** for the Mass. Thank you for your support, please contact Jo Mackenzie on 021 990 918, if you have any queries.



ANGELS, KINGS AND QUEENS WE NEED YOU!!



SAINT ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS MASS - requires tamariki (children) mokopuna (grandchildren) to come along dressed as Angels, Kings or Queens. At the beginning of Mass you will be the entourage for Baby Jesus as he is processed in and laid in the Manger with His Mum Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and their flock. Please join us before Mass starts at 8 p.m. to ensure you are part of the procession.

SAINT ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR - We are about to begin rehearsing for our Christmas Mass so if you can sing and/or have and play a musical instrument we invite you to join us. Our first rehearsal will be at Saint Andrew's on Saturday the 17th of December starting at 9 a.m.

MANAAKITANGA/HOSPITALITY - Please stay **after** our Christmas Mass, bring some kai/food and join us for a shared supper. Everyone welcome.

Anyone who is feeling angelic, royal, musical and/or full of hospitality please contact Marie Paurini 027 2838580 or Anna Mika-Hunt 021 2017197 if you have any questions. Kia ora!!

Marking the Closing of St Benedict's Church

As you are aware - our beloved church of St Benedict is to close. Our last Mass there as a St Benedict's community will be on Sunday 12 February 2023.

We are organizing a fitting tribute to the role of St Benedict's in our Parish and community life. This will take place over a series of weeks and we hope will include:

- Successive gatherings after Masses in Jan/Feb to recount stories and histories of the church and the people who have worshipped there;
- A community gathering at the church on Saturday evening 11th February (ending with Benediction and a vigil into the night after people have gone home);
- Our last St Benedict's Mass at 9am Sunday 12 February.

More information will be given in coming weeks. Please join us and participate! If you want to help/actively take part – or if you have additional ideas – please contact:

Robyn Radomski: robynrad71@gmail.com, Teresa Preston: terber@extra.co.nz

Paul Whitehouse: paulwhitehousenz@gmail.com,

Clive Sowry: cvamsowry@extra.co.nz, John Lawson: jlawsonnz@gmail.com

Parish Information

Parish Advent Communal Reconciliation - Wednesday, 14th December, 7pm at St Benedict's Church.

The Parish Advent Communal Reconciliation service will be held at St Benedict's on Wednesday evening. Take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for Christmas. All welcome.



Johnsonville Christmas Parade

"Jesus is the reason for the Season" was printed on one side of the labels printed by our office staff.

The labels were attached to the lollipops by students at St. Brigid's School. Some students in school uniform helped distribute the lollipops during the parade. Other students, in costume, formed part of the nativity scene on the combined

church's float.

On the other side of the lollipop the label said,
"Wise men still seek Him."

Will you seek Him this Christmastide?



The Onslow Branch of the Catholic Women's League, arranged an Advent Liturgy, focussed on the Scripture and prayer of the Advent Wreath, followed by a Christmas afternoon tea.

Thirty members and friends prayed and sang with fervour, then enjoyed the companionship of long-time friendships as CWL members.

A Christmas Sales table and a Raffle raised \$400 for the Branch's local Mission, Homeless Women's Refuge. An event to remember for us all!



**PASSIONIST
FAMILY GROUP
MOVEMENT**



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP ACTIVITIES - December 2022

CREW group - Cribs on Kapiti

Carols at St Marys - Wed 14th Dec

TEDDYS - Christmas Meal - Sun 4th Dec

Newlands Group - BBQ lunch -Sun 18th Dec

Young Family Group - Gathering at Avalon Park - Sat 17th Dec

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

Please contact John & Kerry Kleinsman: (04) 232 3538

Or email: kleinsklan88@gmail.com (Info pamphlet in church foyer)

Parish Support

Last week a small group of parishioners set up a house for an incoming refugee family. With the gifts from parishioners of both practical and beautiful linen and kitchen items, and with assistance from Challenge 2000, we were able to set up house for 11 people with personalised bedding, a full kitchen and well-stocked pantry. The family were very quick to pass on, via Red Cross, their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for this generosity, as they start their new life in New Zealand.



Our stocks are now depleted. We used up all our supply of single sheets, blankets, duvets, duvet covers and towels. We also need to acquire more kitchen items: family-style/robust dinner sets, pots and pans with lids including stock pot, sets of mugs/cups, cooking utensils, cutlery, bowls, etc. Plus electrical items such as an electric jug, toaster, electric beater/blender, vacuum cleaner, iron, rice cooker.



If you have any of these items which you would like to donate, I'd be pleased to collect them, ready for the next family set-up. The parish has now equipped 26 family homes (since 2015) which is a tribute to the small team - thank you volunteers - and the generous gifts from parishioners.

Jo-Anne Carley, Refugee and Migrant Family Support Coordinator,
Mobile 022 300 7413

Year 8 Retreats

Over recent weeks the Challenge 2000 Youth Ministry team has had the privilege of facilitating retreats on leadership and transition to college for St Benedict's and St Brigid's.

Our students are amazing with a wonderful attitude towards service, working together and learning how to be dreamers, followers and leaders today. For those of you going to college next year we wish you all the best and look forward to working with you again through youth activities in the parish.



For those becoming leaders in the school, keep learning, growing and serving. The northern suburbs are certainly blessed to have you in our community of communities.

Parish Information

Holiday Programmes Christmas Week - Calling all children aged 5 to 12.

On Tuesday, 20th December Challenge 2000 is providing a service day for those who wish to be involved in supporting other members of our community. The day will run from 10am - 4.00pm on.

The day includes a range of service opportunities including: singing Christmas carols, making Christmas cards and decorations, wrapping Christmas presents and decorating churches/ halls for the Christmas season and New Year periods.

Enrolment forms will be available from Challenge 2000, (04) 477 6827 or the Parish Office from next week. **There will be no charge for this day.**

On Thursday 22nd December - there will be another holiday programme that focuses on having fun and learning about Christmas. The programme will run from 10.00am 3.00pm. **The cost for this is \$5.00.**

For more information contact Sio or Mihi at Challenge 2000 or the Parish Office.



Día de las Velitas (Day of the Little Candles)

On December 7th the eve of the immaculate conception parishioners joined with members of our Colombian community to celebrate Mary and family life.

About 60 parishioners joined together in prayer and with candles to remember who Mary was and how she can support women and families and show us the way to bring life and love to others. It was a wonderful evening followed by food and companionship.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Recently Deceased: Michael Willy Moreno, Hoani Paku

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



MASS & LITURGY TIMES

Saturday 10th December - Sunday 18th December

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Sat: 10th December - Word
& Communion

Sat: 17th December - Vigil
Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sun: 9.00am - Mass
Mon: 9.00am - Liturgy
Mon: 7.00pm - Meditation
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wed: 9.00am - Liturgy
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy
Fri: Exposition 8.30am and
Liturgy at 9.00am
Sun: 9.00am - Word &
Communion

St Peter & Paul's Church 37 Dr Taylor Tce,

Sun: 10.30am - Mass
Mon: 9.00 - Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wed: 11.00am - Mass with
morning tea
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy
Fri: 9.00am - Mass
Sun: 10.30am - Mass

Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday 14th December - Communal Reconciliation

St Benedict's Church: 7.00pm

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

St Benedicts's Church: 5.45pm Carols for 6.00pm Family Mass
Ss Peter & Paul Church: 6.30pm Carols for 7.00pm Family Mass
St Andrew's Church: 7.30pm Carols for 8.00pm Family Mass

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

St Benedict's Church: 9.00am Mass
Ss Peter & Paul Church: 10.30am Mass

Sunday 1st January 2023 - New Years Day

St Benedict's Church: 9.00am Mass
Ss Peter & Paul Church: 10.30am Mass

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

