



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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Third Week of Advent 12th December 2021 Year C

Readings: *Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18*

REFLECTION 3rd Sunday in Advent 2021

I've been reflecting on some of the weekday readings recently – and I'd like to share two reflections with you:

The first reflection is on the way Jesus called his disciples: as He walked along the lakeside, He encounters various men (women didn't really count 2000 years ago) and He said He would make them fishers of humanity. That set me thinking – how does He call us these days: well, He gave every one of us an invitation at our Baptism – of course we were not really able to understand that at such a tender age but He renewed that invitation at our First Communion and again at Confirmation – and by then we were a little more capable of understanding. But the personal call He gave the apostles is no more or less powerful and personal than the call He gives us.

And way before Jesus was around the Psalmist wrote of how he (the Psalmist) wanted to "Live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life" (Ps.27:4) and here you all are on this Sunday at church (one way or another) living in the house of the Lord. Well, you might say "I'm not in the house of the Lord on all days – BUT YOU ARE – the mere fact that you are reading this in your place of worship tells God that that is where you WANT to be – in the house of the lord. You don't have to be physically there every day but your very way of life says that's where you would like to be.

And today is Gaudete Sunday – we're halfway through Advent – the candles are rose coloured to indicate a slight easing of the Advent fast – and (maybe) the vestments are a lighter shade of violet – but we're halfway to celebrating the greatest birthday of the year so hang in there amongst all the bustle and heat of the secular Advent.

Christmas Day is almost upon us .
And on that day the Christ Child will shower you with His finest blessings.

Tony de Joux

Rejoice!

THANK YOU to the St Andrew's community for the beautiful reflective communal reconciliation service on Tuesday evening. It was so good to see so many in attendance. The beautiful music of the guitar and violin added to a prayerful reflective forgiving celebration of our lives. "Unbind me and set me free". **Fr Pete.**



Thank you from Philippa Wilson

My heartfelt and grateful thanks to all those Parishioners who more than generously helped to make John Wilson's funeral service memorable for his family, (you know who you are).

WELCOME—A special welcome to the Deaf Community who are celebrating Mass with us at 10.30am, St Peter's and Paul Church.

Individual Reconciliation, **Wednesday 15th December, from 6.30pm** at St Benedict's Church. Vaccine Pass required. Both priest and penitent to wear masks.

Covid Vaccine Passes required at all Masses and Liturgies

Wellington is now in Orange under the Covid-19 Protection framework.

Everyone aged over 12 and 3 months must show a Covid MyVaccine pass when you come to a Mass or Liturgy.

Orange: You will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive at the church. You won't need to book but you will need to wear a mask and scan in or register in writing.

Should we move to **Red** you will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive. Masses will be limited to 100 people. You will need to book and must wear a mask.

Everyone over 12 and 3 months will need a pass. You can get a pass at <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-certificates/my-vaccine-pass/> If you don't have a computer, phone: 0800 222 478 and have your NHI number ready.

If you're not vaccinated there are special masses in Wellington. These can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

If you are unable to attend Mass and you wish to receive Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office to discuss possible arrangements to receive. **Ph: (04) 478 7137.**

Newlands Saint Vincent de Paul – Christmas Food Parcels

We will be distributing our Christmas Food parcels over the last weekend before Christmas. If you can help with donations of food, we would be grateful. All donations can be left in our SVDP donation basket inside St Andrew's Church. For those of you who cannot manage it at the moment, your prayerful support is, as always, appreciated. Our parishioners continue to amaze us with their generosity. We thank you in advance for your continued support. ***If you are considering providing gifts, please donate them directly to the Vinnie's office in Newtown as they will be managing distribution of these items.***

We currently **do not need** any Peanut Butter or Pasta Sauces.

Here is our suggested list:

Flour/Sugar, Honey/Vegemite/Jam, Biscuits/Muesli Bars, Pasta / Rice, Drink Sachets e.g: Raro, Refresh, Tea Bags/Coffee/Milo, Any tinned food at all, Cooking Oil, Washing Powder/Dishwashing Liquid, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste/ Soap, Shampoo/Conditioner, Feminine Hygiene Products, Toilet Paper.

We hope this list gives you some "food for thought". Once again thank you for your support of this important ministry.

Word and Communion Celebrations Training Session

We will be holding a training session on **Sunday 12th December** at Ss Peter and Paul Church, 6.00pm.

We invite all those who would like to find out more about this ministry to come along. The session will be lead by **Fr. Pete Roe**.

St Benedict's Christmas Hamper Mass

We will be holding the Hamper Mass on **Sunday 12th December at 9am**. Thank you to everyone who has selected a Hamper for this year. Please bring your hamper to Mass on Sunday.

For those who are new to the St Ben's Hamper Mass, we recommend non-perishable food items, some festive foods, toiletries, basic home supplies and if you wish, please feel free to include a gift for the children of the family. Thank you again for picking a hamper.

Any queries, please contact **Jo Mackenzie, ph: 021 990 918**.

Advent Liturgy

Advent is a special time in our Catholic faith as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is a time of Reflection, Waiting, Praying and wondering.

On **Sunday December 19th** there will be a Liturgy at **5pm** at SS Peter and Paul Johnsonville, organised by the Youth Ministry Team and Challenge 2000. This is not the usual Sunday Mass. Instead this will be input and time of personal and community prayer. The Liturgy will also include a space for children to create Advent art.

On this day we will focus on Mary, her faithfulness and her passion for bringing Jesus into the world. And what she has to say to each one of us. If you would like to have any further information about this Liturgy or be involved in some way please call **Kitty 021491459** or **Sio 02108160396**.

A vaccination pass is required to attend.

Please remain vigilant during these uncertain times.



Synod Facilitators

Pope Francis and Cardinal John have invited us to participate in the 2021 Synod.

"There is no need to create another church, but to create a different church ..." Pope Francis 9 October 2021

"I want you to be involved in this Synod process. Your baptism calls you and entitles you to be involved.... I am looking forward very much to your involvement in imagining a different future for the Church. Please use this opportunity, it is essential that we do so. This Synod sets out to change the fact that most people of God have been passive spectators for years. You can help to change that. Please take up the invitation to be involved in this Synod process" Cardinal John Dew

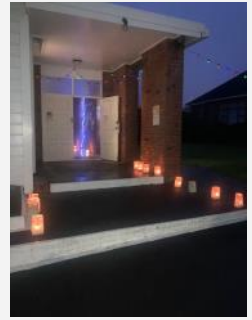
We will hold some parish meetings in 2022 to assist us reflecting, sharing and responding to the questions of the Synod.

To do this we are inviting parishioners who are prepared to assist facilitating these meetings to attend a briefing session with staff from the Archdiocese **(Date to be confirmed)**. Please contact the parish office if you can help.

Further information is available here:

<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/>

Last Tuesday December 7th, 100 people from our parish and other communities celebrated **Día de las velitas Little Candles Day** which is held on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.



This night is a big celebration in Colombia and the unofficial start of the Christmas season there. This Liturgy was celebrated mainly in Spanish. Everyone understood the desire though to honour Mary, to understand her yes to the will of God and then to be like her, to carry Jesus to the world of today as she did.

It was a moving night with many of the Refugees and Migrant families and young adults from Latin American sitting, remembering and praying for their family members back "home".

Everyone lit a candle or a lantern and placed it before the statue of Mary that the Brigidine Sisters gave to Challenge 2000. The church was decorated inside and outside and looked beautiful.

Afterwards everybody celebrated with food and met each other sharing stories and names.

Muchas gracias to Sindy Rodriguez Peralta who organised this with some friends.

Put this in your calendar for next year too.



Bienvenida al equipo Sindy

Nau mai Sindy, to the Parish outreach team. Sindy will be working as a Family Worker for our parish as part of our Pastoral Outreach team to families especially those who are Refugees or Migrants.

Sindy will be working about 6-8 hours per week and is funded through an International Catholic Trust that our Leadership Team successfully applied to. Sindy arranged our Día de las velitas Liturgy, is helping with the Christmas hampers, facilitates a Spanish-English speaking group and will be helping Sio with holiday programmes and Christmas events.

In 2022, she will also be helping to arrange some meetings with parent/s who need support with their children at school. If you would like to be involved with this particular parish outreach then **email Kitty or John Kleinsman** who have responsibility for these projects.

If you would like to contact Sindy, just email the parish office and she will be in touch. We are fortunate to have Sindy with the team and look forward to working alongside her.

Christmas Mass Times

Friday 24 December—Christmas Eve

St Benedict's Church:	6.00pm Family Mass
Ss Peter & Paul Church:	7.00pm Family Mass
	10.00pm Mass
St Andrew's Church:	8.00pm Family Mass

Saturday 25 December—Christmas Day

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

Sunday 26 December—Boxing Day

Ss Peter & Paul Church:	10.30am Mass
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Discussions currently being held regarding carol singing prior to Christmas Eve family Masses. Please check newsletter next week for updates.

A Vaccinatio Pass will be required to be shown on arrival

10pm Christmas Eve Mass: This late Mass will be a simple mass most suitable for people who may not regularly attend Mass and would like to go at Christmas Time. It will be led by Challenge 2000 and Father Eddie Condra.

He Īnoi mō te Hātōtanga o te Kahurangi nei a Meri Hōhepa

E te Ariki e Hēhu Karaiti, nāu mātou i whakaako mēnā ka puaki atu mātou i te pūaroa mō te iti, arā, ngā tēina, ngā tuākana, ngā tuāhine me ngā tungāne, kātahi ka whakaatu mātou i te pūaroa ki ā koe.

Whakarongo mai ki ā mātou Īnoinga ki a Meri Hōhepa te Wahine Kahurangi nāna i te aroha te iwi Māori. Nāna i awhi ngā tāngata pōhara, ngā tūroro, me ngā tāngata rawakore. Meatia tēna, kua karanga rawa atu te Hāhi i tētahi tāngata o āu pononga tapu, o āu tāngata māhaki hoki. Ā te wā tonu, mā te katoa e mōhio mai tōna Hātōtanga.

Āmene.

Prayer for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you.

Hear our prayers that Venerable Suzanne Aubert, who loved the Māori people and devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the underprivileged, and whom the Church has declared to be one of your true and humble followers, may soon be recognised as a saint. **Amen**



Upcoming Events/Notices

Christmas Holiday Programme for children aged 5-12;

Monday December 20th December from 10am-3pm in the Church Hall at Ss Peter and Pauls, Johnsonville.

Organised by the Youth Ministry Team and parish volunteers: come along and make Christmas Cards, act out the Christmas story, paint, sing, make, cook. It will be a wonderful time together.

Please register by calling or email: Sio on pelasio@challenge2000.org.nz / 02108160396, or email the Parish Office. Numbers limited to 30.

Please bring your own lunch. Cost \$5.00 per child or by donation
Come along and have fun!

9-Day Novena Masses Before the Christmas Eve (Simbang Gabi)

These 9-day novena masses are open for all. Masses will be held at the following churches:

15 Dec to 23 Dec, 7:00 PM

St Martin de Porres Church, Avalon (Te Awaikarangi Parish)

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa (Our Lady of Hope Parish)

St. Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay (The Catholic Parish of Wellington Sth) St. Theresa's Church, Karori

16 Dec to 24 Dec, 6:00 AM

St. Joseph's Church, Levin

Thank you for your support. May we have a fruitful celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

Are you recently retired and looking for a bit of work?

If so, would you be interested in working 7 hours a week at St Brigid's School doing some caretaking & grounds jobs? We'd love to hear from you – please contact **Lynne or Linda at the school on Ph 478 6516.**



Wrappers needed - not musical ones!! At the invitation of the Johnsonville Mall, every Christmas, Challenge 2000 offers a wrapping Christmas present kiosk to raise money for fresh produce for the Christmas hampers. If you would like to volunteer for an hours wrapping to help this project, then please call **Steph Penny on 1586024 or Emma on 044776827.** It's another way of Christmas giving this year.

Columban Calendar 2022

We have received the 2022 Columban Calendars for next year. They are available for purchase in the foyer at a cost of **\$12 per calendar.** In the event you cannot attend Mass and wish to purchase one, please contact the Parish Office; **ph: (04) 4787137, email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz.**

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Anniversaries: Mark Telfar

Prayers for the Sick— Abbey Washington, Ted Ramsbottom, Graeme Gorton, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Dianne Greene (Mother of Steven Greene), Tau So'oa (father of Mel Aspinall), Monsignor John Carde, Fr Colin Durning, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell.

Please also remember in your prayers those that are supporting them.

We pray for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19. We also pray for New Zealand and all those working to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Congratulations to Ian Andres Rodriguez who was baptised last week. Welcome to our Parish Community Ian.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 12th December—18th December

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

Sun: Mass 10.30am
Mon: 9am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am Mass followed
by cup of tea
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday: Mass 9.00am
Monday: 9.00am Liturgy
Monday: 7.00pm Meditation
Tuesday: 9.15am Liturgy
Wednesday: 9.00am Liturgy
Thursday: 9.00am Liturgy
Friday: Exposition 8.30am
Liturgy at 9.00am
Saturday: 9.00am Liturgy

Please note. **Reconciliation** is held at St Peter and Paul's on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10.30am before the 11am 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

