



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Nineteenth Week Ordinary Time 13th August 2023, Year A
Readings:: Kings 19:9,11-13, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:22-33

Reflection

We read in today's first reading that Elijah didn't hear God in the mighty hurricane or the rocking earthquake. Nor in the bright flames and crackling of a fire. God was heard in a light, murmuring sound. A gentle whisper – an intimate, personal echo.

In the Gospel we are again presented with the forceful energy of creation.

We can almost feel the rush of the strong wind, feel the stinging spray of the salt water on our face, the chop of the waves and the heaving of upset stomachs as Matthew describes the storm at sea.

When reflecting on these readings I was struck by the turbulence of my life and our country's and world's challenges. It is often the loudest, most critical, destructive forces that possess us and influence us. That leave us afraid and uncertain of what to do.

And I remembered that like Elijah I must go into my cave, shut out those external voices and listen to the voice of God whisper to me.

I know that like Peter I need courage and confidence to navigate the stormy turbulent waves. I must fix my eyes, heart and mind on Jesus.

It is he who shows us the way to love, serve, live and dream. He reaches out to you and me as he walks across the choppy sea of 2023 and says "Courage, don't be afraid."

I hope to spend some time this weekend and week listening and "putting my hand in the hand of the man who stills the waters". (check out that old hymn!).

Kitty McKinley



First Communion

Last Sunday 42 of our children made their First Communion.

It was a moving parish occasion where another generation said YES to living, serving and loving like Jesus did.

Mitch, Rose, Lafaele and Ana organised the music, Leta sorted the logistics and the Challenge 2000 team looked after the kai and the dishes!.. Thanks to the school staff who also helped and all our families too!

Special tables were set up in the hall for the children to share a meal/food and each child was given a candle to remind them of their Baptism and that they can carry light to their worlds, a wrist band with a social value on it and a Holy medal.

All in all a great celebration.



Comments from Parents:

"Just a note to say thank you so much for the lovely service you organised for Sunday. It was a very special day and our daughter really enjoyed

herself. Thank you very much for your team's flexibility as well around rescheduling her first reconciliation, that was very kind of you all".

"Thank you so, so much for the wonderful child centred mass for our son's First Communion on Sunday. It was a beautiful, special and spiritual experience for our whole family. The special attention and care given to each of the children was obvious to see and I loved the way that every child played a role and had a task during the Mass. I think they will remember it for the rest of their lives".



Parish Information

St Andrew's and St Benedict's Decrees of Deconsecration

Archbishop Paul has sent the Parish Decrees of De-Consecration for St Andrew's and St Benedict's Churches.

A separate notice has been emailed to parishioners with details. Printed copies will also be available at Masses this weekend.

Objections to the Decrees must be received by Archbishop Paul abp@wn.catholic.org.nz by Friday 25th August.

Thomas Davis
Finance Committee Chair

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."

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 and community events that celebrate special occasions reflecting a celebration of life.

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

We welcome contributions to the Book for this presentation. Your contribution of a celebration 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.

Please email your article with any photos to Fiona Kearns at email: fionaearnz@gmail.com, or leave a hard copy in the specially marked "Book of Life" container in the church foyer.

Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE

For the Parish Dance. **Saturday, 25th November**more details to follow.



Parish Information

Feast of the Assumption - 15th August

Assumption and Christmas are the only two Holy Days of Obligation in New Zealand.

There will be 3 Masses in our Parish for the Feast of the Assumption, as follows:

Monday, 14th August - Vigil Mass at 7pm

Tuesday, 15th August - St Benedict's School Mass at 11.30am

Tuesday, 15th August - St Brigid's School Mass at 1.45pm

Everyone is welcome at any of these Masses

ALPHA COURSE Starting Soon!

Alpha is a 10-week series which provides a place to connect with others as you explore the big questions in life.

Join us and bring a friend along!

Each evening consists of a shared meal, an episode on a topic of faith, and a chance to ask questions and share ideas in small groups.

Starting on Tuesday 29th August, 6:30pm in our church hall.

All are welcome to attend. To register, please email alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz by Tuesday 22nd August.

We look forward to welcoming you to Alpha!

HELPERS NEEDED

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve in the parish community?

Talk to us about becoming a part of the Alpha Team. Helpers are needed for set-up, cooking and/ or serving of meals, and clean-up afterwards.

Please see Joe Green if you are interested.



Parish Information

Sacramental Programme

For those that would like to participate in the Confirmation Programme, it will begin this **Sunday, 13th August from 2.00pm - 4.30pm**. [Click here](#) for full dates.

If you have not already registered and would like to, please [click here](#) for details, or contact Ana Baice on 021 227 3754 or the Parish Office, ph: 04 478 7137.



Confirmation Mass will be held on: **Sunday, 10th September at 2.00pm**

Family Mass - 10.00 am on Sunday 17th September

Anyone who would like to participate in this Mass please contact Pat Collier, email: tchpat.collier@gmail.com

On the day please bring food for a shared lunch. The children will receive an ice block after lunch.

Also we encourage you to bring an item of non perishable food for families in need. These can be placed in the basket before Mass and will be presented at the offertory. Many thanks. **Pat Collier**

Volunteer Training

Training for those involved in supporting different communities or who would like to be involved in a volunteer ministry is now being offered through our Parish Outreach Committee.

Our Parish and Challenge 2000 is known and respected for the grassroots work we do in our different communities.

As part of this work our second volunteer information and training programme is being held on **Wednesday, August 30th from 7.00-9.00pm** in the Parish Hall.

If you wish to become a volunteer or upskill please contact:

Kitty McKinley - kittymckinley@challenge2000.org.nz, ph: 04 4776827 or

Jo-Anne Carley - jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz or

Parish Office - ph: 04 4787137 with your basic details to register.

Parish Information

Synod

So what is the Synod, taking place over two sessions (2023 and then a year later in 2024)?

The working document explains: "some of the questions" that emerged from the consultation with the People of God concern issues on which there is already magisterial and theological teaching to be considered.

To just give two examples, one can note the acceptance of remarried divorcees, dealt with in the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Letitia*, or the inculturation of the liturgy, the subject of the instruction *Varietates legitimæ* (1994) of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The fact that questions continue to emerge on issues like these should not be hastily dismissed, rather it call for discernment, and the Synodal Assembly is the privileged form for so doing. In particular, the obstacles, real or perceived, that have prevented the steps indicated by previous documents from being realised should be considered and reflections offered on how they can be removed."

In short: some of the issues have been considered, and the advice yet to be implemented. The Synod will reflect on why this is so. One factor might be "a general lack of information", in which case, "improved communication will be needed".

Joe Green

Other Events/Notices

Notices - Titipounamu Study & Joy

Women in the Bible with Kieran Fenn fms.
Mondays, 07/14/21 Aug & 04/11/18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$90/series. All sessions are connect but also stand alone.
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/10/women-in-the-bible/>

Liturgical Spaces with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin.
Series on Muffin Talk radio programme freely available online at:
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/17/liturgical-space-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Dear Parents



You have chosen to send your child to a Catholic School, where faith is integral to every aspect of your child's growing and learning.

Our faith is a gift from God that is encouraged by instruction and example. It needs to be both LEARNED and LIVED. The family is therefore the best place for your child to grow in faith.

Building Families of Faith

is a new series for parents of New Entrants, Year 1 and Year 2 students, tailored to help you accompany your young child in the early years of the faith journey. Join us for a dynamic evening that will encourage your own understanding of faith and help you engage with your child's faith-based learning.

All parents and caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend- an opportunity for you to ask questions and join in conversation with other young parents on the same journey.

Building Families of Faith

Thursday 31st August

5- 6pm in the St Brigid's School Library.

Childcare & pizza for the kids will be provided.

Please RSVP to office@stbrigids.school.nz
to let us know your childcare needs.

Hosted by Church Mission



*Helping
parents
accompany
their
children
on their
journey of
faith*

Faith grows
when it is lived
and shaped
by love... our
families, our
homes are the
right place for
faith to become
life, and life to
grow in faith.

Pope Francis

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: Nathaniel Lama

Anniversaries: Ted de Joux

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

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 12th August - Friday 18th August

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Sat:	5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun:	10.00am Mass
Mon:	9.00am Liturgy
Mon:	7.00pm Parish Assumption Vigil Mass
Tue:	9.00am Liturgy (at the Brigidine Convent)
Tue:	11.30am - St Benedict's School Assumption Day Mass
Tue:	1.45pm - St Brigid's School Assumption Day Mass
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

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

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

