



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Twenty Fourth Week Ordinary Time 17th September 2023, Year A
Readings:: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35

Reflection

The message is clear from today's readings. God forgives us totally and graciously; we are to do the same with those who hurt us. There is no exception to this teaching. We are to forgive with all our heart. Our salvation is dependent upon it.

This truth is strongly evident in the parable recorded in Matthew's gospel read today. The parable tells of a servant who was forgiven a huge debt by his Master but who in turn was unable to forgive a fellow servant who owed him a small debt. The Master made the servant pay dearly for his unforgiving attitude.

What Jesus is condemning is made clear in the first reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. We sin when we hold onto anger, resentment, and a desire for revenge. We must forgive our neighbour the wrong he has done and in so doing our sins are forgiven. It is not our neighbours sin that is forgiven, it is our sin.

Our faith is not simply a question of good and bad actions but of relationships. Forgiveness is not about undoing evil actions but of restoring broken relationships, about healing and reconciliation.

Just as we expect God to accept us back into his loving arms again and again without limit, so he expects us to be ready to do the same for others. This is the point of the parable of "The lost son."

However it is not always easy to forgive, especially actions that have caused deep hurts. Sometimes, after we have expressed forgiveness, the hurt keeps coming back at us causing resentment to rise over and over. This is where we need the grace of God. Once again we need to cry out to God to help us let go the hurt and return to a forgiving spirit. In the end by God's grace we gain the victory.

Forgiveness brings life and peace to our spirits. Un-forgiveness is like a cancer, ultimately destructive of our spirits.

Ewen Laurensen

Property Update - Decrees for St Andrew's and St Benedict's Churches

Archbishop Paul Martin has written to the parish regarding our property project and the Decrees for St Andrew's and St Benedict's.

The following are the important points from his letter.

- There were three groups representing 79 people who opposed the decree for St Andrew's. As a result the decree for St Andrew's is withdrawn to allow for further discernment.
- No objections were received for St Benedict's and the decree is confirmed as promulgated. St Benedict's is now relegated to profane but not sordid use.
- Archbishop Paul asks that the parish put aside property issues for the next three months to focus on spiritual and liturgical issues in preparation for Advent and Christmas.
- We have been asked to revisit our property plan next year to give effect to the parish's vision for the future with a single church uniting parishioners with the plan. More details of what we will do will be provided later.
- In the meantime no properties will be sold.

I like these words. Also very important with Advent around the corner. Open, listening, free, flexible, receptive. That is the attitude that makes us ready.

A copy of the full letter from Archbishop Paul is available for you to take in the church foyer.

Fr Pete sm

Malvina Major

Malvina Major will be having an Ecumenical Service on Wednesday, **27th September at 2.00pm.**



The service will be led by Joe Green. All very welcome to attend.

Confirmation 2023



Forty three children and young people have been on the 2023 Parish Sacramental programme.

17 received the Sacrament of Confirmation by Archbishop Paul Martin last Sunday.

Family, friends and parishioners gathered with their candidates to celebrate their faith and celebrate faith, love, family and life.

It was a wonderful parish occasion, where Archbishop Paul congratulated the candidates and encouraged them and all present to continue to learn about Jesus and deepen our relationship with him every day.

All in all it was a lively, spirit filled Mass followed by a great afternoon tea.

Congratulations to all involved in the programme and especially our children, young people and their families.

Come Holy Spirit fill us and send us out to set the world on fire with your love.

Challenge Youth Ministry Team



Parish Information

Alpha Update:

A big thank you to parishioners who 'adopted' an Alpha participant to pray for last weekend. Your prayers can make all the difference in someone's life!

If you would like to pray for one of our Alpha participants, please contact Lucienne at alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

A big thank you also to parishioners who have offered to cook a meal. We know this is a big ask and really appreciate your generous support! We're almost there....

If you would like to help, please contact Lucienne or Joe Green. God bless you!



SAVE THE DATE

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



Season of Creation - An Ecumenical Event

How: via Zoom
When: 7pm, 17 September 2023 at St Francis of Assisi
Meeting ID: 845 6543 7259
Passcode: 036442

The Season of Creation is an Ecumenical initiative started in 2010 by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew 1.

A group of the Focolare in Oceania, NZ and the Pacific Islands have decided to do an online event of 1 hour. We have drawn contributions from around the region. The program will be broadcast online via zoom in French and English.

The program is made up of prayer, meditation, short talks, experiences and music all in celebration of working towards a better world.

We will share a cuppa after the event. **Ian Hamilton**

Parish Information

Church Life Survey

The Catholic Bishops of NZ have agreed to jointly participate this year in the Church Life Survey NZ. This is a nationwide survey of parishioners and church attenders.

An email was sent to all those on our mailing list with a link to this survey. If you have time, it would be great if you could complete online.

If you have any queries, or would like a printed copy of this survey, please contact the Parish Office, ph: 04 478 7137.

Weekly School Liturgy with The Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, **19th September**, 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, **21st September**, we will be having our liturgy with St Benedict's School, in the library 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.



Prayer Chain

Is someone you know suffering though challenges to health, mental well-being or personal hardship?

St Francis of Assisi Parish has an active **PRAYER CHAIN.....**

Ring Katharina Dobson
(04) 976 9191 or Mob: 027 327 3609

To add your prayer request to the chain.....



And why not join the chain to add your voice to ours?

COME AND SEE...

“WHAT YOU ARE IS
GOD'S GIFT TO YOU,
WHAT YOU BECOME IS
YOUR GIFT TO GOD.”

Hans Urs von Balthasar

PRIESTHOOD VOCATIONS MORNING

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

@ 9AM - 12PM

**ST FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH,
ISLAND BAY**

Join us for a morning of prayer, sharing and fellowship.

To register, text 021 164 5800 or email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz
Visit our Facebook page (Wellington Priests) or follow this
link: www.wellingtonpriests.org

Notices - Titipounamu Study & Joy

Women in the Bible - The Book of Esther with Kieran Fenn fms.
Monday, 18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$20/session.
<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

Other Events/Notices

MEET THE ŌHĀRIU ELECTORAL CANDIDATES

PUBLIC MEETING - **Wednesday 20th September**, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. At the Johnsonville Community Centre Main Hall. Doors open at 7pm.

Hosted by the Johnsonville Community Association.

All Welcome.

Joshua Wellington

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

Speaker: Fr Peter Ewart SM on "Make Unity Our Target"

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-447-7280 or
Email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Enrolment for Bachelor & Graduate Diploma

Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College accepts enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology starting on 25th September.

To learn more about the programmes, go to:
www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes.

Current of Grace

Everybody is welcome at the Current of Grace Wellington event "I am moving over the nations will you follow me?" on **Saturday 7th October 2023** at St Joseph's Church Mt Victoria between 10:00am and 3:30pm.

Speaker - Josie Olsen. Healing service led by Fr John Rea SM.
Bring your own lunch.

Want to know more? Ring Steve Ready 027-356-9555 or
Email: currentofgracewellington@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: Eugene Crosby, Sister Connie Hurley RNDM

Anniversaries: John Collier, Antonio Moreno, Joseph Matthew Kulathinal, Peter Bleakley, Celine Rodrigues

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

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 16th September - Friday 22nd September

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

| | |
|--------|---|
| Sat: | 5.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sun: | 10.00am Family Mass |
| Mon: | 9.00am Liturgy |
| Tue: | 9.00am Liturgy (at the Brigidine Convent) |
| Wed: | 11.00am Mass - Followed by Morning Tea |
| Thurs: | 9.00am Liturgy |
| Fri: | 8.30am Exposition and 9.00am Liturgy |

Please note, **Reconciliation** is held on the first Wednesday of the month, 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

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

