



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Third Sunday of Advent 17th December 2023, Year B

Readings:: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11, Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8,19-28

"What is the meaning of Advent in our Broken World?"

In a recent article, Franciscan priest and author Daniel Horan notes it can be difficult to acknowledge the presence of Advent, let alone reflect on its significance. "Do we embrace authentic Christian hope, or do we reduce this liturgical time to a celebration of some kind of superficial and fleeting feeling of optimism? The latter, which is what many Christians think the season is about, can too easily be experienced as a form of escapism from the realities of life and history."

Quoting from the mystic, Thomas Merton, Horan argues that our Advent faith must not become an escape from the world to a misty realm of comforts and Christmas songs. "We are conditioned to think happy thoughts and prepare for the cosmic birthday party of the baby Jesus. But this kind of thinking does a disservice to the radicality of what it is we actually celebrate as a faith community that exists in a broken and troubled world."

Rather, our task is to seek Christ in our world *as it is*, and not as it *might* be. Advent is not meant to draw our focus away from the world and all that is broken about it, whether the violence of war in places like Ukraine or the Middle East, or instances of deprivation, discrimination, exclusion or harm closer to home.

Thus, Horan writes, "Advent is a time to remember that God entered this world uncoerced and willingly. Christ's arrival as a vulnerable child is an act of solidarity with all people, but especially with those who are in the most precarious positions in society."

How will you show your solidarity with the broken and vulnerable people around you and in far-away countries this year? For Christians, that is the key measure of a Christmas celebrated well.



John Kleinsman

2023 Nativity scene in Bethlehem Church depicts baby Jesus amid the rubble, symbolising Gaza's war.

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.

Office Hours

Please note that the Parish Office will close on **Friday, 22nd December 2023 and reopen on Tuesday, 23 January 2024.**

If you have any urgent enquires, please email - office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Mass & Liturgies During the Summer

Please note - there will be **NO** weekday liturgies or masses between 26th December 2023 and 26th January 2024.

They will recommence Monday, 29th January 2024.

Rosters

There will be no prepared rosters from 30th December 2023 until 21st January 2024 for weekend Masses. If you are at any of the masses over those weeks, please volunteer.

Columban Calendar 2024

These are available to purchase at a cost of **\$12 per calendar.**

They can be purchased through the sacristy **at the end of both Masses**, or contact the Parish Office: **ph: (04) 478 7137** or **Email:** office@stfrancisohariu.nz



St Brigid's & St Benedict's End of Year School Masses

Last Friday, St Benedict's School held their end of year school mass.

Fr Pete led the Mass, with teachers and students participating in a beautiful service.

The school farwelled their Year 8 students in a moving candle ceremony with the Year 7 students singing to them. Thank you to all those involved in the Mass preparations.



This week St Brigid's held their end of year school mass. Again, the Year 8 students were farwelled by their school community with a lovely blessing by Fr Pete. Thank you to all those involved in the Mass preparations.



The message from Fr Pete to both schools was - we are all lighthouse keepers to one another. And we are all light houses - don't let anyone blow out your light..... If they do - just light it again! And be a beacon to others.

Thank you to both schools and to our school and parish communities for a wonderful end of year Mass.

We wish all our Year 8 students all the very best for the next chapter in their school journey.



Dia de las Velitas

On 7th December, the Eve of the Immaculate Conception, Colombians from around Wellington, along with other Spanish-speakers, gathered for Dia de las Velitas, the Day of the Little Candles.

This year we met at the Church of St Thomas More in Wilton.

The liturgy gave thanks for friends and family. Families lit candles both around the altar and outside. Everyone then socialized with delicious Colombian food; empanadas, natilla (a Colombian flan), buñuelos (flour and cheese balls), and cocodas.

This is an annual celebration and open to all, to share with the Colombians a special feast day.

Jo-Anne Carley.



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: Sunday, 17th December

Note: we 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

ADVENT

Advent is that unchangeable season when the same concepts, the same words rise over and over again, year after year, to challenge our hearts and minds.

Advent is a season of waiting but it comes relentlessly through life with its words of hope, faith, joy and peace.

During advent we prepare to birth the Christ in our lives.

Candles are prominent in our advent liturgy.

Purple and pink candles will be lit.

Candles focus our minds on the light of Christ and remind us always that time is going by, that light is ebbing. What is time for? Is time only for work?

In this troubled world with war in Ukraine and Covid still in our midst amongst other things can we put work aside for a few minutes each day and really prepare to birth the Christ in our lives.

Can we let God be manifested through us to the path of true hope, faith, joy and peace?

HOPE

Hope is the reason,
we survive tough times;
Hope is God's voice,
still and small but divine;
Never give up hope.

JOY

Shout for joy
The whole earth
And everyone within
Rejoice!
For light has come into the world.



FAITH

Rejoice in the Lord always
Shout out His name
For God is with us
The God of our salvation
In whom we trust

PEACE

Peace be with us all
God's quiet within the noise
God's hope within uncertainty
God's rest within our toil
God's presence within our soul
Peace be with us all.

Parish Information

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

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Laurie Warwick

Anniversaries: Mark Telfar, Tony Campbell

Prayers for the Sick: Fr David Orange, Fr Tom O'Connor SM, 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 16th December - Friday 22nd 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
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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Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Donations:

02-0524-0203642-00

