



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fourth Week of Advent, 18th December 2022 Year A
Readings: *Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25*

Well, that's it – this is the 4th Sunday of Advent – you remember – Advenio – to come? Well, now it's Advenius – we have arrived. Well, not quite- there's still another week of Advent to get ready for that Highest of High Holy Days – Christmas

So – what have you achieved so far? Got all the shopping done (oh don't be silly). Sent the Christmas Cards (what are they?), had the car checked, stopped the papers and mail? Told the neighbours that you're going to be away. Good – all those things which make for a relaxing holiday – oh but don't forget to turn off the water heating before you go away.

But hang on a bit – what have you done in your spiritual life? Cleansed the soul? I know that Jesus was born in a rather whiffy stable but that's no excuse for you offering Him a slightly tarnished soul? After all, if YOU were expecting your baby to arrive next Sunday, wouldn't you have cleaned the house, made sure the nursery was spot on? So how about cleansing the soul ready for Jesus?

After all Jesus is arriving next week. Have you even tuned into Jesus recently?? WHO?? No – you haven't?? There's always time to change your mind, to sit down and have a thought about the other side of life: Joseph had time to change his mind – he was going to "put Mary away" as the quaint terminology has it but then he thought a bit more about and changed his mind to become protector of the Holy Family. You're not expected to do that but you are expected to have a quick change of thought and try and tune in on The Holy Family this week. After all it's their big day coming up – and, besides it's not often you're asked to change channels.

Give it a go so that when Christmas Day comes and we sing that "Gloria" and when the priest says before the Preface "LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS" and we reply "WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD" we really will be lifting up our spring-cleaned souls to the Infant Jesus

May the Christ Child pour out on all of you this Christmas His choicest blessings, may you always have a light and a star to guide you, may you travel well and come back safely, may you recharge the batteries and above all may you relax (even if the little ones do get up at 5am on Christmas Morning)

May you have a Happy and a Holy Christmas and may your New Year bring you blessings and happiness

And may the Blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit descend upon you all and remain with you for ever. (Benedictio Omnipotentis Dei, Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti, descendat super vos omnes et maneat vobiscum in aeternum)

Tony de Joux

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.



Office Christmas Hours

The Parish Office will close on 23rd December 2022 and will reopen on 16th January 2023 with reduced hours.

Next week will be the last newsletter of the year and we will be sending it out on Wednesday. Blessings - **Angela & Helen**



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. Practices will be at Saint Andrew's on: 17/12/22 at 9 a.m. and 19/12/22, 20/12/22, 22/22/12 at 6 p.m. We look forward to "liffing the roof" on Christmas Eve!



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 if you have any questions.
Kia ora!!

Closing Mass as Ss Peter & Paul Church

Sunday 8th January we will have the last Mass as Ss Peter & Paul Church.

Following the Mass, we will have light refreshments and take the time to share stories and memories of times past.

We look forward to the reopening of the Church on 19th February 2023.

Parish Information

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@xtra.co.nz

Paul Whitehouse: paulwhitehousenz@gmail.com,

Clive Sowry: cvarsowry@xtra.co.nz,

John Lawson: jlawsonnz@gmail.com

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 18th December after the 9:00am Mass.



School Masses

St Benedict's School & St Brigid's School celebrated their end of Year School Masses last week.

Pete invited all the Year 8 students to come around the table of the Eucharist as a sign of God's infinite love and embrace of these

young people.

As they move forward into the next stage of their lives, into colleges throughout Wellington, may they know that God is with them to protect, guide, and strengthen. May they have the courage to face whatever challenges they may meet. And for them to always remember to stay close to the people that matter in their lives.



Thank you to both schools for all their hard work, to make each Mass a wonderful celebration and a lovely end to the year.

Pete sm

Thank you - Benedict's School Choir

On 11th December 2022 the community Christmas Carol service was celebrated at the Onslow Community Church hall.

The St Benedict's school choir, directed by Clare Short and Rebecca Haswell sang and led us in carols and blessings. And they did so beautifully.

Our thanks to St Benedict's School, Clare and Rebecca, parents and the young people in the choir for representing our parish so wonderfully

Joe Green, Parish Director of Mission

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

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.

Time: 10.00m - 4.00pm

Venue: Ss Peter & Paul Church Hall

This is a free event, just BYO lunch and water bottle.

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

To register please contact - Rose: rosealdridge@challenge2000.org.nz

On Thursday 22nd December - there will be another holiday programme that focuses on having fun and learning about Christmas.

Time: 10.00 - 3.00pm

Venue: Ss Peter & Paul Church Hall

Cost: \$5.00

Bring: Packed lunch & water

For more information, please contact:

Rose - rosealdridge@challenge2000.org.nz or

Sio - ph: 021 816 0396

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Anniversaries: Tom O'Donnell, Mathew Metua Gale, Mark Telfar

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



TIME CAPSULE. – Fragments from the History of Our Parish.

No.7. Three Archbishops and an Auxiliary, 1965.

Fixed to the wall above the doors that separate the foyer from the nave of St Benedict's Church in Khandallah is a plaque that reads:

ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH
BLESSED BY
BISHOP SNEDDEN
31ST JANUARY, 1965.
ARCHITECT BUILDER
JOHN W. STANDISH, R.I.P. F. E. SEAGAR LTD.

Owen Snedden MBE (1917-1981) was Auxiliary Bishop of Wellington from 1962 to 1981.

Etched into the panes in the doors below are the coats-of-arms of the first three Archbishops of Wellington.

The first, Francis Redwood (1839-1935), was a member of the Society of Mary, as can be seen on the shield. His motto O CRUX AVE SPES UNICA means "Hail to the Cross, our only hope." He was the second bishop of Wellington, succeeding Philippe Viard SM, and the first Archbishop of Wellington from 1887, becoming at that time Metropolitan of New Zealand.

The second, Thomas O'Shea (1870-1954), was also a member of the Society of Mary. His motto VINCIT VERITAS means "Truth prevails." He was coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington from 1913, and succeeded Redwood as Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan of New Zealand in 1935.

The third, Peter McKeefry (1899-1973), was a diocesan priest who had studied in Rome, where he was ordained. He was well-known as editor of the Catholic weekly *Zealandia*. Central in his shield is the upside-down cross, a symbol of Saint Peter the Apostle who was crucified upside-down. His motto PASTOR BONUS ESTO means "Be a good shepherd." He was coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington from 1947, and succeeded O'Shea in 1954. In 1969 he was created cardinal by Pope Paul VI, the first New Zealander so honoured.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES
Saturday 17th December - Friday 23rd December

St Andrew's Church
29 Trebann St
Newlands

Sat: 17th December - Vigil
Mass

St Benedict's Church
3 Everest St Khandallah

Sun: 9.00am - Word &
Communion
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

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

Christmas Mass Times

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

St Benedict'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

Saturday 31st Decemember - New Years Eve

St Andrew's Church: 5.00pm Word & Communion

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

