



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fourth Week of Lent, 19th March 2023, Year A

Readings: Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

The hero of the Gospel story is the man born blind. He was born blind from a physical cause, and not because either he or his parents had sinned.

Out of compassion Jesus healed him even though it was the Sabbath. People who knew the man were puzzled by his new sight. They took him to the pharisees seeking explanations. The pharisees regarded Jesus as a sinner as he had broken the Sabbath law. Sinners are not from God and cannot heal was their response. So they questioned the man, and his parents, further. They could make no progress for the healed man kept insisting "I was blind but now I see."

This explanation was unacceptable to the Pharisees for to them sinners cannot experience things of God. So the man was thrown outside.

Jesus heard about this, found the man and talked with him further revealing himself as the Messiah. "Do you believe in me as the Messiah" was his searching question. "Lord" the man replied, "I believe."

At the start the man was blind - he was in darkness. At the end of the story he is in the light, not only because he could see, but because a deeper insight caused him to become a disciple of Jesus who is the light to the world.

The story is for us all. We are all called by Jesus to believe in Him, become His disciples and walk in His light. The second reading from Ephesians reflects this. "You are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light in all goodness, uprightness and truth. have nothing to do with the futile works of darkness."

We may think that we are not good enough to be a disciple. The man of our story was blind, a beggar and an outcast. Jesus seeing his heart brought him into the light of His life.

Samuel from our first reading was sent to anoint one of the sons of Jesse as King. Samuel, led by God, ended up anointing the most unlikely of Jesse's eight sons, the youngest David.

The central lesson is that God does not choose by outward appearances but rather by a heart that is open to receiving the saving and healing love that Jesus brings to all who believe in Him. That includes you and me.

Ewen Laurenson

Parish Information

The Cardinal has written a letter to Parishioners with regards to a change in the leadership model here within our Parish. A copy of this letter will be available at weekend Masses.

Holy Week Timetable

Palm Sunday Weekend - 1st / 2nd April

5.00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass
10.00am - Sunday Mass
7.00pm - Sunday Communal Reconciliation

Holy Thursday - 6th April

7.00pm Mass

Good Friday - 7th April

10.00am Family Liturgy
11.00am Ecumenical Walk
3.00pm Liturgy

Easter Vigil - 8th April

7.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday - 9th April

10.00am Mass

Easter Ceremonies - If you would like to be involved in any of the ceremonies over Easter, please contact Wendy Cleaver email: cleaver@actrix.gen.nz

Holy Week Message

During Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper), we have no masses or liturgies in the Parish.

We ask parishioners to use this week as a time of reflection and prayer in preparation for the Easter Triduum.

You are invited to spend time in your own "personal garden" to reflect in prayer on your life and the life Jesus has given us in these days.

Parish Information

Lenten Stations of The Cross

Each Wednesday 22nd, 29th March at 7.00p.m.
At St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church, 37 Dr Taylor Tce,
Johnsonville.



Lenten Reflection Group

Each Wednesday night in March,

22 March - *Called to New Life.* Led by Jo-Anne Carley

29 March - *Carrying Crosses Together.* Led by Jo-Anne Carley

Time: 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: the Chapel space at Challenge 2000, 1 Wanaka Street,
Johnsonville. It would be nice to know if you are planning to come; all
welcome.

Jo-Anne Carley phone 022 300 7413 . Email jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz or
Ana Baice 021 227 3754.

Lenten Reconciliation - Palm Sunday - 2nd April

Communal reconciliation is a way of acknowledging how our actions and lack of actions impact on others such as our church communities, family and those we meet in our daily lives.

It is a way of showing our need to turn back to God with renewed faith, hope and enthusiasm. This is why it is often referred to as a sacrament of mercy and forgiveness.

It is a chance to look deeply at our vulnerabilities, because our vulnerabilities are our strength - it is a time to reflect the strengths so that our focus is not always on our vulnerabilities. The whole purpose is to link us more closely and yet once again more fully with the love and life of God.

Come and be at peace with God and one another.

Join us for our communal reconciliation at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church on, **Palm Sunday, 2nd April 2023 at 7.00pm**

Parish Information

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 be presented next weekend 25th/26th of March at both the Saturday 5.00pm Mass and the Sunday 10.00am.

It is not too late to make a contribution to the Book for this presentation. Please email your article with any photos to

Fiona Kearns - fionakearnz@gmail.com

Over this weekend the church will be celebrating Family Life. It is within committed and loving families that relationships flourish and a culture of life is developed.

To support this celebration of Family Life our Reverence for Life group is organising a time of prayer to be held on the afternoon of Sunday the 26th March. We will meet in the Brigidine Convent Chapel from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

We would welcome you to come and join with us in this time of prayer.

ORGAN RECITAL: Saturday, 13th May - 3.00pm

Following a request from several parishioners, to present an organ recital on our Allen Digital organ, David Dobson will present an organ recital at our Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, on the above date.

The recital will be about an hour long. Those attending will be invited to offer a generous koha, and all donations will go towards Cyclone Relief.

The recital will demonstrate sounds of the organ not usually heard during Sunday worship and will be followed by afternoon tea, prior to our regular Vigil Mass at 5pm.

More information to follow!



Parish Information

THANK YOU

Following our special collection at Mass the other week for Cyclone Gabriel we would like to advise a very generous **\$3014.00** was raised.

We would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to our Parishioners for your support. St Vincent de Paul's will use this money to support those affected by the cyclone. Many thanks.

Attention Malvina Major Community



Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday 21 March at 2.30pm** in the Burma Lounge. Any questions please contact Judith 021 203 1144.

English Conversation Gatherings for 2023:

Is English your second language? Would you like to become more confident in your speaking and listening of conversational English?

A small group of us will be meeting next Tuesday 14 March early evening, over food, for conversation and friendship. Newcomers very welcome!

We met throughout 2022 as a group of women whose first languages were Cambodian, Mandarin, Spanish, Tamil, and Turkish, along with volunteers who helped with English pronunciation.

We welcome all speakers of English as a second language (e.g. Tagalog, Hindi, Samoan), to join these gatherings for informal English conversation.

The group has been women only and last year we met in the early evenings. If there is interest for something different, I'd be able to arrange other gatherings.

For more details: Jo-Anne Carley, Refugee and Migrant family Support Coordinator. Phone 022 300 7413 Email: jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Parish Information

Prayer Chain

Is someone you know suffering through 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?



Other Events/Notices



Stitches among the Flowers

Johnsonville Uniting Church and
Johnsonville Floral Art Club invite you to
an exhibition of handwork and floral
arrangements.



Johnsonville Uniting Church
Friday, 14th April 2023 - 7pm to 9pm
18 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville

Friday evening official opening with entertainment \$15:00 per person.

Tickets available from:
office@juc.org.nz or the church or ph: 478 3396,
Tuesday to Friday 10 am to 2pm.

Renier renierack@gmail.com or 021 783 821
Karen kj_parminter@xtra.co.nz or 027 286 0916

***Saturday 15th** – 9:30am to 4pm – entry \$5:00 pp at the door for entry to exhibition and a cuppa with a bite to eat. Sales: crafts, plants, baking, cards, jams, raffles and much more. Sorry no eftpos.

Other Events/Notices

Notices from Tifipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions (Evening):

Genesis – In the Beginning... (Repeat on Special Request)

The Creation Stories (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 20 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/in-the-beginning/>

YouTube Recording

The Notion of 'Church' with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/02/muffin-talk-with-prof-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Filipino Chaplaincy Lenten Recollection

Filipino Chaplaincy — Wellington A LENTEN RECOLLECTION by Fr. Bernard Espiritu SVD on GRACE.

Date: 25th March 2023 (Saturday)

Venue: St. Martin de Porres, Avalon From 1:30pm,

Followed with Holy Mass at 5:15pm

Cyclone Appeal - Society of Saint Vincent De Paul

The SVDP has started a national appeal to help the victims of the recent cyclones that have caused devastating loss in the largest and most widespread weather event ever to impact New Zealand.

The Society, through its conferences in the affected areas, will provide financial help, and food, clothing, furniture and advocacy assistance to those affected for as long as the recovery takes.

Donations can be made directly to the St Vincent de Paul National Cyclone appeal at <https://donate.svdp.org.nz/> who issue donation receipts for tax purposes.

Alternatively, cash donations can be made at church in the food basket or the St Vincent de Paul donation box. Please include your name, email and address details if you wish to receive a receipt for tax purposes.

Thank you for your help.

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Anniversaries: Rosemary Joachim

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

Let us pray for all the people of New Zealand affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. At this time, may they find the strength to rebuild their lives and support one another. Let us remember them in all in our prayers.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 18th March - Friday 24th March

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 the Brigidine Convent)
Wed:	11.00am Mass - with 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.

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

