



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

**Thirty Third Week Ordinary Time 19th November 2023, Year A**  
**Readings:: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30**

Today's reading from the Book of Proverbs praises the virtues of a wise, industrious and Godly woman. Such a woman not only brings blessings on her family but also on the wider community. Her contribution is considered to be beyond the price of rubies; ie priceless.

In the second reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Thessalonians Paul continues his discussion on the second coming of Christ. He stresses that no one knows when Jesus will come again. But Paul adds that we should not be worried about being ready if day by day we are living out our faith in love and light. Doing this faithfully will keep us prepared for the return of Jesus.

In the days of Jesus His opponents wanted their Kingdom of plenty and pleasure here on earth. They did not want to believe that eventually a day of judgement would come for them.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus told the parable of the talents as a warning for his opponents but also as an encouragement for His faithful disciples.

The servants in the parable who received five and two talents used them faithfully and well to build God's Kingdom and were rewarded. However the servant who received one talent kept his talent hidden and gave nothing to the building of God's Kingdom. The servant had his excuse but it was not acceptable as it was devoid of faith, love and service.

We are called to live out a life of faith in Jesus with love. The wise and loving woman from the book of Proverbs and the Thessalonian disciples reflecting the light of God are examples of faithful discipleship. They are using their talents for the glory of God and will receive an eternal reward.

So too must we use our talents for the glory of God.

**Ewen Laurenson**



**Advent Liturgy**

Do you want to make space to prepare during this **Season of Advent**?

Advent covers the four weeks in December leading up to Christmas and marks the beginning of the Church's New Year.

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of the Christ Child when we are invited by the prophet Isaiah to 'Wake up!' and 'Prepare the Way' for Jesus' coming into our world at Christmas.

To help you prepare by making a life-giving waiting space this Advent there will be a time for prayer and shared reflection.

**When:** Four Sundays starting on 26 November, 3, 10, 17 December

Note: we are starting a week before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent because the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4.00pm to 5.00pm

You are welcome to come to all four or to some of the sessions.

For further information contact:

Wendy – [cleaver@actrix.co.nz](mailto:cleaver@actrix.co.nz) Judy – [judymac@actrix.co.nz](mailto:judymac@actrix.co.nz)

**THANK YOU - From Wairoa**

Dear Wonderful people of St Francis of Assisi Parish,

Mihi mahana from St Peters Wairoa.

Thank you for the box of Church goodies [vestments/linen/chalice etc] that you generously gave to us for our St Therese's Church and Marae which was devastated by the Gabrielle event. Progress is underway to re-instate both Church and Marae....and your generous gifts will again bring honour and praise to our God of care.

Blessings on you all.  
Father Rob.

## Parish Information

### A Big THANK YOU From The Alpha Team!

The first parish Alpha Series concluded with a Thanksgiving Dinner last Tuesday, 7th November. It was a great evening of celebration, testimonies, and fellowship, as well as a bit of sadness that it's over!

The Alpha Team wish to thank all parishioners for your prayerful support in the past 11 weeks. Special thanks to those who volunteered to cook or serve meals. We were so blessed by your generosity and service.

Our next Alpha Series is scheduled to begin in May next year. Get in touch with us if you would like to join the next programme.

We look forward to welcoming you to Alpha! From the Alpha Team

### Ecumenical Service Malvina Major

This will be held on **Wednesday, 22nd Nov at 2 00pm**. All are warmly invited to join MM residents in the Chapel- Reflection Room for this Service led by our Lay Pastoral Leader Joe Green.

### Christmas Giving Appeal

As we approach the Christmas season we are very much aware that many families will be worried about how they will cope. As you are able, we ask that you think of these families and open your pantry, your wallet and your hearts.

St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 work in partnership providing a foodbank for the needy.

Between now and mid December, please consider increased donations of non-perishable food items to the foodbank. Food will be distributed by this partnership.

You might prefer to donate "cash" - there are two ways that you can do this - in an envelope clearly labelled "helping out at Christmas appeal", or, supermarket gift vouchers. Just pop these into the collection plate. The cash will be turned into supermarket vouchers. These will be distributed to needy families by Fr Pete and Joe, our pastoral leaders.

Your gift from the heart - he tuku aroha - could make a difference to families. Please give generously.

## Parish Information

### Feast Day of St Cecilia - 22nd November

We give thanks for the gift of music and for our parish musicians. May they be blessed as they lead us in music and song, generously sharing their time and talents in support of our liturgies.

### St Andrew's Day

St Andrew's feast day will be celebrated on **Wednesday, 29th November** with Mass at 11.00am.

In the course of archiving papers, 3 photo albums have been updated with names of those in some of the photos. The 3 books will be available to view on the weekend of 25th / 26th November, on Wednesday 29th November and the weekend of 2nd / 3rd December.

Filling in the gaps would be appreciated. If you recognise any of the unnamed people in the photos, please add their names to the sheets provided. Many thanks. **Colleen Campbell.**

### **CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS GOSPEL PRESENTATION** **PHOTO SHOOT SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> Nov after 10.00am Mass**

Calling all parish children who would like to be part of our Gospel powerpoint presentation at our Christmas Eve Family Mass.

The Christmas story will be narrated accompanying a prepared powerpoint presentation. The presentation will be compiled from photos of our own children in costume.

A photo session will be held after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. We invite all children who would like to be part of this to come along. If you come to this session we presume you give permission for your child's photo to be used. Costumes will be provided. Each child attending on 26<sup>th</sup> will be given a gift.

Any child not able to attend on 26<sup>th</sup> November can still participate in our Christmas Mass. We would like children in costume [provided just prior to Christmas Eve] to greet people as they arrive, dress our crib, and be our offertory procession.

If you would like to be part of this, please contact - Pat Collier  
Email: [tchpat.collier@gmail.com](mailto:tchpat.collier@gmail.com)

## Parish Information

### Welcome

Join us for a Welcome Morning Tea to New Parishioners! We invite you to gather with us on **Sunday, 3rd December**, (First Sunday of Advent), immediately following the 10am Mass.

Extend this warm invitation to all our newcomers and share in the joy of community.

### CHRISTMAS MARKET - Saturday 2nd December

The Christmas Market is on Saturday, 2nd December from 12pm to 4pm. We thought to have a choir at this event to give it the Christian touch.

If you would like to be a part of this project then come to a choir practice here on **Sunday, 19th November 2023 at 3pm** in the Hall of St Francis of Assisi Parish. Many thanks. **Ian Hamilton.**

# *St Francis of Assisi Oharian Christmas Parish Dance*

7pm, Saturday 25 November 2023  
Johnsonville Community Centre

*Live music ☆ Spot prizes ☆ Christmas cake raffle ☆ Best dressed awards*

\$10 entry (under-13s free)  
BYO drinks and nibbles

to reserve your tickets, contact before 13 November:  
*Mike Havell: 022 623 0130 / Jenny Stove: 021 115 8441*  
*Stephanie D'Mello: 021 118 93441 / Nirmala D'Mello: 021 108 2074*

## Parish Information

### Finance Committee – Request for Planned Giving Review

The Finance Committee spoke at each Mass on the weekend of 4/5 November, regarding the decreasing income and increasing costs.

The summary of the message was to say thank you to all parishioners who contribute regularly for the day to day running of the church. The details of increasing costs and decreasing income was described. A request was made to those who can, to review their giving and increase it. In the message we acknowledge those who are on low or fixed income and may not be able to give anymore, we thank you for your current giving.

This table is to assist those who can increase their current planned giving, with various scenarios.

Various Weekly Giving Scenarios						
		Increase by	Weekly after	Annual	IRD	Net Cost
Weekly Giving		20%	20% increase	Giving	Refund	To Parishioner
\$5.00	\$	1.00	\$6.00	\$312.00	\$102.96	\$209.04
\$10.00	\$	2.00	\$12.00	\$624.00	\$205.92	\$418.08
\$15.00	\$	3.00	\$18.00	\$936.00	\$308.88	\$627.12
\$20.00	\$	4.00	\$24.00	\$1,248.00	\$411.84	\$836.16
\$25.00	\$	5.00	\$30.00	\$1,560.00	\$514.80	\$1,045.20
\$50.00	\$	10.00	\$60.00	\$3,120.00	\$1,029.60	\$2,090.40
		Increase by	Weekly after	Annual	IRD	Net Cost
Weekly Giving		50%	50% increase	Giving	Refund	To Parishioner
\$5.00	\$	2.50	\$7.50	\$390.00	\$128.70	\$261.30
\$10.00	\$	5.00	\$15.00	\$780.00	\$257.40	\$522.60
\$15.00	\$	7.50	\$22.50	\$1,170.00	\$386.10	\$783.90
\$20.00	\$	10.00	\$30.00	\$1,560.00	\$514.80	\$1,045.20
\$25.00	\$	12.50	\$37.50	\$1,950.00	\$643.50	\$1,306.50
\$50.00	\$	25.00	\$75.00	\$3,900.00	\$1,287.00	\$2,613.00

If you have not registered with the parish for a planned giving donation number, please contact the parish office by email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz)

Parish Bank Account details as follows: **BNZ Bank, a/c: 02-0524-0203642-00**  
**Thank You**

## Parish Information

### St Vincent de Paul St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Conference



Our St Vincent de Paul conference plans to give hampers of sweet treats, appropriate for Christmas, to our clients and those of Challenge 2000.

With your help we can add interest to these hampers if you are able to add edible treats, or tea, coffee, or drinking chocolate. We can't manage goods requiring refrigeration. As a guide: items which you would enjoy yourself are welcome.

We are packing hampers for distribution over the weekend of 9th / 10th December. Please add any donations to the basket in the centre aisle by **Sunday, 3rd December**. Many thanks.

## Other Events/Notices

### Mass

The last Mass for Alternative Thinkers in 2023 will be led by Fr Eddie Condra at the Challenge Marist Chapel, 1 Wanaka Street, Johnsonville at 4pm on Sunday 26th November.

There will be a cuppa to follow and all are welcome. By way of koha, please bring an item for the Challenge 2000 Christmas food parcels.

### Christmas Carols

**Sunday, 3rd December** at St John's Anglican Church, 18 Basset Rd, Jville.

**Time:** 4.00 - 7.00pm with CAROLS followed by shared dinner.

All very welcome. Kids more than welcome to come dressed as angels, shepherds.....

For more information contact the Focolare Centres.

Ph: 04 478 7962 / 04 477 9538 or email: [newzealand-w@focolare.org](mailto:newzealand-w@focolare.org)

*Ngaio Community*  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**Sunday 3rd December 7:00 PM**

**ONSLow COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
4 Ngatoto Street, Ngaio  
04 479 6329

## MASS INTENTIONS

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



**Recently Deceased:** Mary Kemble, Charlie Tribe, Bernie Atkins

**Anniversaries:** Cecilia D'Souza

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

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 18th November - Friday 24th November

### 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:	<b>NO 9.00am Liturgy at Brigidine Convent this Tuesday.</b>
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](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz), Phone: 04 478 7137

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

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

Parish Bank Account for Donations:

**02-0524-0203642-00**

