



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fouth Week of Advent 19th December 2021 Year C
Readings: *Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-44*

4th Sunday of Advent – Year C

The Gospel today comes immediately after Luke's account of the Annunciation – when Mary was asked by an angel to conceive a child outside of wedlock! Assured of God's favour, and that nothing is impossible for God (as evidenced by her elderly cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy), Mary responds:

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word"

In the very next Gospel chapter (today's Gospel) Mary sets out for a hill country town in Judah. She is a very young teenage girl between the ages of 14-17 years.



Largely uneducated, unsophisticated, pregnant, she travels alone (probably) and in haste to visit her elderly cousin, Elizabeth. Her actions are trusting and selfless – and powerfully communicate "it's not about me!". Mary surrenders to God's will and God's power. There was no one to confirm she was on the right track, no one to reassure her that she was right. *She totally trusts her own inner experience of God.*

And the outcome of this young girl's trust and surrender? Well, we celebrate that next Saturday – the Incarnation, the coming of God to dwell among us, as one of us. And ultimately the Resurrection, our fulfilment in God – which is what it means to be saved. And Mary has enabled all this.

How do I compare to Mary? How is it that I can love and admire her – and not imitate her faith journey? How do I respond to God's calling of me? And what work might God bring about through me if I were to love, trust and surrender myself to God.....even just a little bit? **John Lawson**

Vigil and Sunday Masses and Word and Communion Liturgies

As we get closer to January and February 2022, I am fully aware that the holiday season begins, Covid restrictions are still in place and that over this time there will be fewer Masses, on Sundays, where there are no Priests available.

Please be assured Mass will be offered in at least one of our communities - St Andrew's, Ss Peter and Paul or St Benedict's - be it a Vigil or Sunday Mass. Hence, I encourage you to be aware of where Masses will be celebrated during January and February. Word and Communion Liturgies will also be celebrated over these weekends.

What is a Word and Communion Liturgy?

Celebrating the Lord's Day

"The people of God need to know that, even when we listen to God's Word and receive Communion outside of Mass, we are closely united with the sacrifice that continues the sacrifice of the cross within our lives."

(Vatican for Divine Worship – Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass)

The Church gathers on Sunday, the Lord's Day, to celebrate Eucharist, gathered around the Tables of Word and Sacrament. The Church is sent by the Lord, to serve the common good in the world that God places before us. We are the Church the Lord assembles, to be His People.

We gather, and we pray, and we go, and we serve, we gather, and we pray, and we go, and we serve.....And the Lord calls us to be open and welcoming to the new members he sends to us. Our challenge is to engage all in mission and ministry.

In circumstances when a priest is not available to lead the Eucharist, the Church calls from its members men and women to be Leaders of Prayer (LP) and Leaders of Communion (LC).

Over the last four weeks training has taken place with parishioners from our three communities. They are already Ministers of the Word and Communion and are now also able to lead us in Word and Communion Liturgies - where a Priest is not available on Sundays.

A Word and Communion Liturgy looks very much like a Mass but is led by a presider rather than a priest, because it does not have a moment of consecration - which only the priest can perform.

At a Word and Communion Liturgy, you will not hear the words, “This is my body.... This is my blood....”, instead a presider and ministers of communion, distribute hosts that have been consecrated at a Mass and then placed in the tabernacle until needed.

Our Word and Communion liturgical texts have been prepared using the traditions of our various communities across the parish, as well as resources from the Canadian Catholic Bishops Conference. We are blessed to have several choices of Prayers of Preparation, Gratitude and Thanksgiving that are suitable for our needs.

Thank you to all who have responded to the invitation to lead our communities, in Word and Communion Liturgies, when a priest is not available. I know the wonderful people of Saint Francis of Assisi, Ohariu will benefit greatly from your Ministry. **Fr Pete Roe SM**

Please CHECK THE TIMETABLE BELOW to ensure you know when and where these Masses and Liturgies are being celebrated.

January Schedule

<p>Saturday 1st January Ss Peter & Paul's - 10.30am Mass St Andrew's - 5.00pm Vigil</p>	<p>Sunday 2nd January St Benedict's - 9.00am Word & Communion Liturgy Ss Peter & Paul – 10.30am Mass</p>
<p>Saturday 8th January St Andrew's – 5.00pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 9th January St Benedict's – 9.00am Mass Ss Peter & Paul – 10.30am Word & Communion Liturgy</p>
<p>Saturday 15th January St Andrew's – 5.00pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 16th January St Benedict's – 9.00am Word & Communion Liturgy Ss Peter & Paul's – 10.30 Mass</p>
<p>Saturday 22nd January St Andrew's – 5.00pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 23rd January St Benedict's – 9.00am Mass Ss Peter & Paul's – 10.30am Word & Communion Liturgy</p>
<p>Saturday 29th January St Andrew's – 5.00pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 30th January St Benedict's - Refer to St Andrew's Vigil Mass Ss Peter & Paul – 10.30am Mass</p>

The Fitzgerald Awards

Today we honour the recipients from our Parish with this award.

Since the year 2000, the Archdiocese has at various times honoured and acknowledged local people for their contribution to various aspects of parish life. In 2010 these awards became known as the Fitzgerald Awards, named after the prominent Catholic layman, Dr John Patrick Fitzgerald, who did so much for the Church in Wellington, even before there was a Wellington Diocese.



John Fitzgerald was born in Dublin. He obtained a medical degree from the Glasgow School of Medicine and was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. On 31 January 1840 he arrived in New Zealand as consulting surgeon to the New Zealand Company. Later he became Medical Superintendent of the new Colonial Hospital in Wellington. He learned Te Reo (the Maori language) and also introduced the integration of both Maori and Pakeha in hospital wards.

On his journey to New Zealand on the barque "Oriental", Dr Fitzgerald organised church services. On arrival in Wellington he found that there were a number of Catholics but no resident priest. He welcomed Bishop Pompallier to Wellington at Christmas 1840. The bishop was unable to leave a priest at that time, so Dr Fitzgerald took charge of the Catholic Community and organised services each Sunday. He did so until Dr Jeremiah O'Reilly OFM Cap. arrived in 1843. Bishop Pompallier referred to Dr Fitzgerald as "the Catechist of Wellington". Eliza Fitzgerald, the wife of the doctor, was the church organist and the hostess for the many functions held in the Fitzgerald home, which for a while was the centre of Church life in Wellington (perhaps the first "Little Church" in Wellington and long before our SFOA Covid lockdown "Little Churches"?!)

Dr Fitzgerald left New Zealand in 1854. His farewell function was organised by both Maori and Pakeha. His remarks on this occasion, seem more like a Sunday homily. His listeners were exhorted to "Love God and.....to be forgiving". He died in England in 1895.

Dr John Fitzgerald exemplified many of the qualities of service that are now increasingly needed in Catholic life as the number of available priests decreases. **The Fitzgerald Awards are presented to people who make a significant service contribution to our community.**

Covid Vaccine Passes required at all Masses and Liturgies

Wellington is now in Orange under the Covid-19 Protection framework.

Everyone aged over 12 and 3 months must show a Covid MyVaccine pass when you come to a Mass or Liturgy.

Orange: You will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive at the church. You won't need to book but you will need to wear a mask and scan in or register in writing.

Should we move to **Red** you will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive. Masses will be limited to 100 people. You will need to book and must wear a mask.

Everyone over 12 and 3 months will need a pass. You can get a pass at <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-certificates/my-vaccine-pass/> If you don't have a computer, phone: 0800 222 478 and have your NHI number ready.

If you're not vaccinated there are special masses in Wellington. These can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

If you are unable to attend Mass and you wish to receive Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office to discuss possible arrangements to receive. **Ph: (04) 478 7137.**

NB: If you would be interested in having an option to attend an Open Mass in our Parish, please contact the office to advise by either email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz or ph: **(04) 478 7137** between 9.00am -3.00pm.

Fr Pete Roe - From 2nd January 2022, Father Pete will be on sabbatical, for a well earned break and retreat. He will also be spending time with his beautiful family.

As we do not have a resident Parish Priest, it is important that requests for Masses, Funerals, Marriages, Memorials, Baptisms, continue to go through the Parish Office, 04 478 7137 or email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz. The Parish Office phone will be monitored after hours for emergencies.

Office Hours: Please note St Francis of Assisi Parish Office will close on 24th December 2021 and will reopen on 17th January 2022 with reduced hours. Next week will be our final Parish newsletter for the year.

We look forward to seeing you all again in January.
Have a blessed and safe Christmas. - **From Helen and Angela**

Upcoming Events/Notices

Advent Liturgy

Advent is a special time in our Catholic faith as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is a time of Reflection, Waiting, Praying and wondering.

On **Sunday December 19th** there will be a Liturgy at **5pm** at SS Peter and Paul Johnsonville, organised by the Youth Ministry Team and Challenge 2000. This is not the usual Sunday Mass. Instead this will be input and time of personal and community prayer. The Liturgy will also include a space for children to create Advent art.

On this day we will focus on Mary, her faithfulness and her passion for bringing Jesus into the world. And what she has to say to each one of us. If you would like to have any further information about this Liturgy or be involved in some way please call **Kitty 021491459 or Sio 02108160396**.

A vaccination pass is required to attend. Please remain vigilant during these uncertain times.

Wrappers needed - not musical ones!! At the invitation of the Johnsonville Mall, every Christmas, Challenge 2000 offers a wrapping Christmas present kiosk to raise money for fresh produce for the Christmas hampers. If you would like to volunteer for an hours wrapping to help this project, then please call **Steph Penny on 1586024 or Emma on 044776827**. It's another way of Christmas giving this year.

Christmas Holiday Programme for children aged 5-12;

Monday December 20th December from 10am-3pm in the Church Hall at Ss Peter and Pauls, Johnsonville.

Organised by the Youth Ministry Team and parish volunteers: come along and make Christmas Cards, act out the Christmas story, paint, sing, make, cook. It will be a wonderful time together.

Please register by calling or email: Sio on pelasio@challenge2000.org.nz / 02108160396, or email the Parish Office. Numbers limited to 30.

Please bring your own lunch. Cost \$5.00 per child or by donation
Come along and have fun!

Columban Calendar 2022

We have received the 2022 Columban Calendars for next year. They are available for purchase in the foyer at a cost of **\$12 per calendar**. In the event you cannot attend Mass and wish to purchase one, please contact the Parish Office; **ph: (04) 4787137, email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz**.

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Anniversaries: Tom O'Donnell, Doris Bose, Mathew Gale

Prayers for the Sick— Abbey Washington, Ted Ramsbottom, Graeme Gorton, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Dianne Greene (Mother of Steven Greene), Tau So'oa (father of Mel Aspinall), Monsignor John Carde, Fr Colin Durning, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell.

Please also remember in your prayers those that are supporting them.

We pray for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19. We also pray for New Zealand and all those working to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Prayer for our Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu

Loving God, as members of our Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu, we come before you in a spirit of love, prayer and thanksgiving.

We pray you bind us together in love. Whatever our age, cultural background and individual roles within our parish, may we be one together in Jesus. May we accept, affirm and support one another.

In your service we offer you our talents and gifts so as to build your Loving Presence amongst us. May our Parish be vibrant with your love and always a place of welcome

May your Holy Spirit anoint us, inspire us, and send us out into the community as witnesses to you and your love and teaching. May we have the courage and compassion to reach beyond our church to the peripheries to those who are most vulnerable and in need.

May your Holy Spirit draw others to you through us.

We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

St. Francis of Assisi pray for us, and guide us.



MASS & LITURGY TIMES 18th December— 23rd December

St Peter & Paul's Church 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Sun: Mass 10.30am
Mon: 9am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday: Mass 9.00am
Monday: 9.00am Liturgy
Monday: 7.00pm Meditation
Tuesday: 9.15am Liturgy
Wednesday: 9.00am Liturgy
Thursday: 9.00am Liturgy

Christmas Mass Times

Friday 24 December—Christmas Eve

St Benedict's Church:	6.00pm Family Mass
Ss Peter & Paul Church:	7.00pm Family Mass
	10.00pm Mass
St Andrew's Church:	7.30pm Carols for 8.00pm Family Mass

Saturday 25 December—Christmas Day

St Benedict's Church:	9.00am Mass
Ss Peter & Paul Church:	10.30am Mass

Sunday 26 December—Boxing Day

Ss Peter & Paul Church:	10.30am Mass
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A Vaccination Pass will be required to be shown on arrival

10pm Christmas Eve Mass: This late Mass will be a simple mass most suitable for people who may not regularly attend Mass and would like to go at Christmas Time. It will be led by Challenge 2000 and Father Eddie Condra.

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

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

Parish Bank Account for Donations:
02-0524-0203642-00

