



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

Seventh Week Ordinary Time 20th February 2022 Year C

Readings: *1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38*

Today's a day for forgiving: not the sort of "I'm sorry 'cos I bumped into your car and scratched it" - today's for thinking about the BIIIIIG STUFF!!

David had every chance to butcher Saul – and he didn't, he forgave all the Saul nasties that he'd heard about and just scared Saul a bit – to be fair it was a big nasty bit but still. . . .

And then when David wrote the Psalms – today's Psalm, maybe he was thinking of that when he drew our attention to the GOD who forgives all of us – all of the time and not just in a weak namby-pamby sort of a way – God is He who forgives ALL your guilt, , who heals EVERY ONE of your ills, who does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults but "as far as he east is from the west so far does He remove our sins" - now that's a BIIG forgiveness and He doesn't expect us to come crawling to Him – He forgives our sins regardless.

And Jesus becomes "the Second Adam" who has the spirit as well as the soul and we are all modelled on Jesus as Paul reminds us.

And then comes the crowning idea – the Sermon on the Mount–full of forgiveness "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you" This is not easy to comprehend – why should you forgive the next door neighbour who's just "accidentally" ruined your fence line or chopped the branches of your trees? Why should you be nice to the fellow worker who's always making snide remarks about you? Why indeed?? WHY??

Because at heart we are actually compassionate people – we try to be compassionate as our Heavenly Father is, we try to be nice, we think up excuses to forgive other people – but it ain't easy – so we need prayer and with prayer comes forgiveness of heart and that forgiveness suffuses through our whole being and makes us just that more compassionate

SO: let's give forgiveness a go and see what happens – you might just be surprised - and remember – if you've given up on God – He hasn't given up on you and you're pretty much just where God expects you to be at this time in your life. **Tony de Joux**



Covid Vaccine Passes Mandatory at all Masses and Liturgies

New Zealand is now in **Red** 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 and masks are mandatory. Social distancing is essential.

Under **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 for weekend Masses and Word and Communion Liturgies.

Bookings are essential as numbers are limited. To book your place please go to the Archdiocese website and register or click on the [link](#)

Please note bookings for weekend Masses open at **9.00am Wednesday** and close at **12pm Friday**.

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 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.**

Please [click here](#) for a very useful guide on being prepared for Covid19.

For more information on life under the Red Traffic Light Framework [click here](#).

Mass Booking—Please Note

If you do make a booking for Mass please make sure you attend. Places are limited, we have a number of Parishioners unable to attend due to bookings being full.

In recent weeks we have had a number of people book, but not attend, preventing others from coming. **However**, if you are feeling unwell, you **must not** attend Mass, as per COVID guidelines.

Thank You from Leokadia O'Sullivan - Thank you for the prayers, condolences and flowers I received on the death of my son Edward.

Parishioners of St Francis of Assisi

During 2021 we progressed a review of the parish properties in response to a request from Archbishop John in 2019. He requested the review:

"... identify how many churches the parish needs to cater for its Mass count (taking into account the availability of priests and lay pastoral leaders), and the ideal location of the church or churches. For most, if not all parishes with more than one church, this will mean reducing the number of churches in the parish. Provision for accommodation of priests is part of the review."

He also noted:

"You need to be prepared to be radical in your thinking and discernment. The theme of parish amalgamation was "A Future Full of Hope". This hope-filled future will only start to take shape when we honestly and courageously engage with and answer the many questions about our buildings."

The LFT have drafted a response for Archbishop John with consideration of the consultation we had during 2021. This draft is available [here](#) on the parish website and printed copies will be available in each church this weekend. Appendix 2 is also available on the website [here](#).

The LFT encourage parishioners to consider the draft and think about this not from their own perspective but from a whole parish perspective. Rather than think about what we have had in the past think about what we need as a parish in the future.

We welcome feedback from parishioners on this draft either by email to propreview@stfrancisohariu.nz or in writing which can be mailed to the parish office or left in boxes in our church foyers.

Your feedback is requested by Sunday 6 March.

Leadership Formation Team

Office Hours During Red Light Restrictions

The Parish Office will be closed to visitors at this time. Office staff will be either working in the office or remotely.

For any enquires, help or advise, please contact us on ph: 04 478 7137 or email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz

The SYNOD – get involved – raise your voice.

From about 310CE until very recently the only people who seemed to have any say in the Latin Catholic Church have been “men ... beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on”.

Pope Francis is challenging the Church to adopt a different approach, to return to a style described by Cyprian of Carthage (c. 255CE), in ‘that while nothing should be done without the Bishop and his Council of Presbyters, it is equally true that nothing should be done without the consensus of the people’. While we here in Wellington are used to synods, having had at least four in the last 40 years, and we hear of the Australian and German synods, Francis is working to build on Vatican II and re-establish this ‘Synodal way’ (synodality) as the normal way of doing things throughout the whole Church, and at all levels from Parish to the Universal Church.

Being synodal means recognising we are the People of God, pilgrims together on a journey, in COMMUNION with each other, and that includes Christians who don't identify as “Catholic”. It means all of us PARTICIPATING in the process. And it means knowing that we are a People with a purpose – we are on a MISSION.

The synodal process itself is in three part: a time of PREPARATION, a time of CELEBRATING being the People of God participating as such, and then a time of IMPLEMENTING the outcomes of the synodal process.

Starting with a bang on 17 October 2021, the Universal Church entered into the preparatory part of the synodal process. We will all be challenged to participate. We need to ensure that we get our submissions in by the end of April.

In my life time I know of numerous times where the People of God, that's us, have been asked our views on a particular topic, but never on the very operational style of the Church.

Exciting, and challenging times.

Joe Green



SYNOD Facilitators

Pope Francis and Cardinal John have invited us to participate in the 2021 Synod.

We will be holding a Parish Meeting on **Tuesday, 1st March, 7.00pm—9.00pm** at Ss Peter & Paul's Church Hall to inform, invite & encourage Synod facilitators to enable them to become full participants.

For more information on the SYNOD please [click here](#)

Questionnaire: You can also complete a Synod questionnaire online [here](#)

Preparation: Please download and print a copy of the Synod Participation Booklet and bring it with you to the session. [Click here](#).

*"This Synod is the largest consultation process in the world, ever".
Bishop Vincent Long - 16 February 2022*

Planned Giving Update

Thank you to everyone for their donations last year and this year so far. Planned giving is now \$11,565 lower than last year (20/21) and \$49,318 lower than the prior year (2019/20).

If you are able to do so we encourage you to swap to automatic or direct credit payments as we continue to transition away from planned giving envelopes. If you would like to know more about this or require help, please contact the Parish Office.

There are multiple ways to set up an automatic payment, such as through online banking or popping into your local bank. We thank everyone for their generosity and continued support.

Planned Giving	Monthly			Year to Date		
	Jan - 21	Jan - 22	Difference	Jan - 21	Jan - 22	Difference
Automatic Payments	11,889	12,994	+1,105	114,194	137,406	23,212
Cash & Envelopes	11,052	1,272	-9,780	91,695	56,918	-34,777
Total	22,941	14,266	-8,675	205,889	194,324	-11,565

Sacramental Programme

Thank you to those parishioners who have been inquiring about the Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation Programmes for 2022.

Sacramental and Youth Ministry Team members have been meeting and talking to some of our schools and parents/ caregivers to work out how best to facilitate these programmes.

Covid willing we will look to start sessions on **14th March**, however, further information will follow. We will consult with you all and then work out a safe, faith filled programme for this year.

A big welcome if you are new to the parish and please let the parish office know who you are, your contact details and the ages and sacramental opportunities that you would like your children to have.

Everyone is welcome and we can accommodate children/young people of any age. So please let us know what you would like.

If any of you would also like to assist with any parts of this programme then please either email the parish office with your details or call **Kitty McKinley on 021491459**. Training is provided.

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.

Upcoming Events/Notices

GARAGE SALE - Johnsonville Uniting Church. **Saturday 19th February**
9am - 12noon, Venue: **Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road.**

NZ Catholic free digital issue February

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/d85454b0-a062-4280-8afb-9a123f98b1d3>

Holy Hour: You are invited to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday 22 February** beginning at 7.30 pm in the Connolly Hall chapel, to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. This Holy Hour will include prayers, Scripture, You Tuber singing, times of silence and conclude with Benediction.

Maria Assumpta Parish in Beach Haven, Auckland is celebrating its Golden Jubilee over Labour Weekend. 22-24 October, 2022. Register your interest and get updated details from patlythe@gmail.com / Ph 09.4839903. We'd love to hear from you.

Want to know more about your faith? Study a course online anywhere in Aotearoa with the Catholic Theological College. Courses starting soon are:

- Interpreting the New Testament;
- What Catholics Believe

For more information contact Ann King a.king@ctc.ac.nz or visit our website www.ctc.ac.nz

Compassion Covid Update: After careful consideration by representatives from the Sisters of Compassion, Trust Board members and operational staff, Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Island Bay will be closed to public access, effective Monday January 31st – Sunday April 3rd 2022. All external bookings/public access will be cancelled.

Our decision to cancel bookings for the next two months was not taken lightly. Various facilities at Our Lady's Home of Compassion are expected to be repurposed to serve those in greatest need during the expected health and wellbeing challenges.

At the heart of this decision is a response in line with the thoughts and actions of the Sisters of Compassion and their work with the most vulnerable.

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: Carmelita Abitang, Fr Colin Durning, Cath Keen

Anniversaries: Petelo Godinet, Pauline Aspinall, Constancio B Miguel Senior

Prayers for the Sick: Rosemary Molloy, Graeme Gorton, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Tau So'oa, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell.

Congratulations: Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary to Mel & Ernie Aspinall

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.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 20th February - 26th February

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

Sun: 10.30am - Word & Communion Liturgy
Mon: 9am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am Mass (Cup of Tea)
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Saturday **19th Feb:** 5pm Vigil Mass

Saturday **26th Feb:** 5pm Word & Communion Liturgy

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday 9.00am - Mass
Monday 9.00 Liturgy
Monday 7.00 Meditation
Tuesday 9.15 Liturgy
Wednesday 9.00 Liturgy
Thursday 9.00 Liturgy
Friday Exposition 8.30 Liturgy at 9.00

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

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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

