



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Third Week of Lent 20th March 2022 Year C

Readings: *Exodus 3:1-8,13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12, Luke 13:1-9*

Reflection

In the first reading today Moses has a close encounter with God. He is herding sheep in the wilderness - a murderer on the run from the Egyptians - when God speaks to him from the middle of a burning bush: "Moses - come no nearer, take off your shoes - you are on holy ground!" Moses approaches, tentatively. His curiosity and eagerness is rewarded - and he comes into God's presence.

We - all of us - have this same eagerness for God's presence. It is a deep, existential, all-permeating orientation towards the numinous, towards God in whom we have our true being. As St Augustine states: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

It might equally be said that as God has made each one of us to share in the Divine Life - God too is restless until we rest in Him. And what God wants - God achieves. As God did with Moses - He will draw us to Himself.

There is another tree in today's third reading, the Gospel - a fig tree that is slow to bear fruit. Rather than cut it down the gardener undertakes to tend to the tree, to improve the soil, to manure it so that it will bear fruit.

This is very comforting. What God wants - God gets. He tends to each one of us to ensure that we will live, grow - and come home to rest in Him where we belong. Of this we can be sure.

John Lawson



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](#).

If you are isolating and need support, you can call the COVID Welfare Phone Line on 0800 512 337. The helpline is open seven days a week.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at the following Churches:

St Benedict's Church:

Every Wednesday at 7.00pm on
23rd and 30th March and 6th April

St Andrew's Church:

Every Friday at 6.00pm on
18th, 25th March and 1st, 8th April.



Hospitality in the Parish Churches under **Red phase 3** of the Covid Protection Framework

In line with both Government and Archdiocese of Wellington requirements, this is a reminder that we are unable to hold hospitality gatherings in any of our Church buildings. This includes after Masses, Liturgies, and Funerals.

We know that parishioners wish to gather after such events, however we are required to follow these mandated requirements.

Once these restrictions are lifted, we will get on-site hospitality restarted as it's such an important part of our faith community.

Its certainly a time, 'to walk humbly with our God.' Micah 6:8

Stations of the Cross - St Brigid's Lenten Art Project

St Brigid's School are undertaking a Lenten art project. Each class in school will participate in producing a piece of art for each individual Station. The school has invited our Parish to participate in this project with them.



They have requested help with the following 2 Stations:

- Jesus falls the second time;
- Jesus falls the third time.

For more information and if you are able to help at all, please contact the Parish Office **Ph: 04 478 7137** or email: **office@stfrancisoariu.nz**

Prayer time for Peace in Ukraine Ss Peter & Paul Church—Friday, 18th March

The Youth Ministry Team and volunteers are organising this evening to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine.

There will be a 15 minute Liturgy at 6pm and 7pm followed by silent prayer and reflection for 45 minutes. All are welcome to pop in at any time during the evening.

For further info please call: Mihi on 02741 19289 or Kitty on 021491459 or Angela on 044787137

Sacramental Programme Update: Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation 2022:

Dates for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation are still being confirmed at the moment. Options will be provided via e mail by next weekend.

Please register your interest with the parish office stating the name and age of your child, their school, physical street address and which sacrament they will be enrolling in. Once we have that information we will send out programme attendance options.

There will also be parents evenings/ afternoons to explain what the programme covers and how to be involved.

Our sacramental programmes are child and family friendly and we look forward to walking the faith journey with our children, their friends and family. All are welcome to attend.

We also appreciate anyone who would like to volunteer as a programme leader. Training will be provided if needed.

Any questions please contact Kitty on **ph: 021491459** or the Parish Office Ph: **478 7137** or email: **office@stfrancisohariu.nz**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES

This is a very challenging time for many individuals and families in our community and the wider Wellington area.

There is increased demand on our Ohariu food bank and also more pressure on expenditure like bus passes, train passes and of course petrol. Challenge 2000, Saint Vincent de Paul and our Pastoral Outreach committee are working hard making meals and organising children activities (for isolating) and food parcels.

We either deliver them or they can be collected from the Challenge Marist building at 1 Wanaka Street.

There is an old Army tent at the front of Challenge to make it easy and safe for people to collect what they need.

PLEASE during this Lent if you can donate food then please do so either at mass or by dropping off at the Parish office or the Challenge Marist Centre. Or make a donation to the parish account, marked Lenten help.

ALSO if you need anything please contact Challenge on **ph: 4776827** or the Parish office on **ph: 4787137**. Lenten Blessings.

Refugee and Migrant family support update

In our parish there are many refugees who live among us. Last weekend, Colombian families took part in a Ministry of Education-funded project targeting Spanish speaking migrant families to help them understand and fully access the New Zealand education sector.

The project is being delivered by Challenge 2000 with Jo-Anne Carley, as part of our parish outreach team, taking part. This is a wonderful gathering and sessions will move to face to face as soon as it is considered safe.

On our behalf, Jo-Anne has also been visiting Colombian, Kurdistan and Sri Lankan families to help them in their integration with the community and she has spoken to classes in St Brigid's about welcoming refugees.

As she learns about specific needs she will use the church networks to bring together those in the migrant and refugee community in need of particular support, with others who have time, goods and expertise to offer.

Jo-Anne's contact details are jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz and for this outreach the phone number is ph: **022 300 7413**.



**Te Huinga o ngā Pihopa
Katorika o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

"Pope Francis wants to hear from you!"

The bishops are using this direct papal message to invite people – Catholic or not – to take part in a survey for the ongoing international synod on the

future direction of the Church. The survey is being advertised on Stuff and in social media such as Facebook, so you might see it pop up. Please share it with friends who may not be reached by your parish/diocesan Synod consultation. Details including a link to the survey: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-feedback/>

Ss. Peter and Paul's - 100 years celebration

This year is 100 years since Ss. Peter and Paul's Johnsonville separated from Lower Hutt and became a parish in its own right.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Would you like to help plan the celebration.

Contact Pat Collier - tchpat.collier@gmail.com, ph: [04]4786230 or mobile 0212943960.

Pope Francis's Prayer to St Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no generous effort will ever be lost.

Pope Francis: [Message for Lent 2022](#)

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

NZ Catholic free digital issue

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/e7fba446-52c8-4585-aa31-2a70f63285eb>

Holy Hour - You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday 22 March** at the Connolly Hall Chapel beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. We will also be praying for peace in the world and especially for peace in Ukraine. Included in the hour will be prayers, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction. All are welcome.

Lent Preparation

During this Lenten time, the National Liturgy Office is featuring a page of preparation for liturgies for each Sunday in Lent. Please click here for details: <https://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/>

SYNOD - Church Mission is offering Zoom sessions for those who have not been able to join a Synod group in their parish, as follows:

Monday 21st March 11.00am-12 noon,
Tuesday 22nd March 2.00pm-3.00pm and
Wednesday 23rd March at 7.00pm



Registrations are essential, please email:

l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions:

Ignatian Imaginative Contemplation – Prayer Hour with Laetitia Puthenpadath.

Friday, 25 March, 3-4pm. ZOOM. Koha/Donation.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/ignatian-imaginative-contemplation/>

For more information and registration: www.studyjoy.nz



"Who do you say I am?": Images of God, mental well-being and Pacific young women

Come and join us online as Therese Lautua talks about the significance of Christianity for the spiritual and mental wellbeing of young Christian, multi-ethnic Pacific women. She will take us through the different images of God and how these impact mental wellbeing. To register, please [click here](#).

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Tifa Collins

Anniversaries: Rosemary Joachim-Dias, Constantino Arcellana, Sr

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

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

Let us pray for all those in the Ukraine and their New Zealand families at this time. We pray for peace in our World. We also pray for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 20th March - 26th March

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

Sun: 10.30am - Mass
Mon: 9.00am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am - Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Saturday **19th March:** 5pm
Word & Communion
Friday: 6.00pm Stations of
the Cross
Saturday **26h March:** 5pm
Vigil Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday: 9.00am - Mass
Monday: 9.00am - Liturgy
Monday: 7.00pm - Meditation
Tuesday: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wednesday: 9.00am &
Wednesday: 7.00pm Stations
of the Cross
Thursday: 9.00am - Liturgy
Friday: Exposition 8.30am and
Liturgy at 9.00am

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

