



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

**Ascension Sunday 21st May 2023, Year A**  
**Readings:: Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20**

## **Prayer for Christian Unity**

From the very outset the Christian community experienced division – these are outlined in both Luke's Acts of the Apostles and in Paul's writings to the emerging Christian churches at various locations. Over the millennium these divisions have morphed into the range of "denominations" we have today. No doubt more are yet to emerge.

In the week between the celebration of the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost world-wide we celebrate a week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A series of services is prepared at one location, and distributed internationally. The National Dialogue for Christian Unity has adapted that for use here in Aotearoa New Zealand. You will see in the notices that we come together with other Christians on 23 May 2023 – ecumenically – to pray for unity, not uniformity, but unity – united in one faith that is Jesus Christ.

In the April edition of *Tui Motu* theologian Thomas O'Loughlin writes about foot washing. He speaks of the crux of what might be considered Christian unity: *"How easily we recall the command to baptise (Mt 28: 19) and to remember Jesus at Eucharistic meal (Lk 22: 19), but forget the command to wash one another's feet (Jn 13: 14-15)"*.

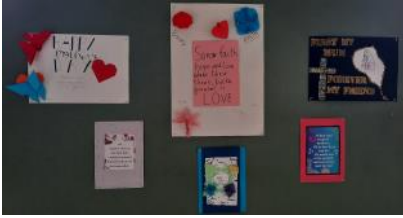
Baptism and Eucharist are two of several points of separation between denominations: we have varying practises around baptism (age, setting and minister) and around Eucharist ("real presence", only by ordained, frequency, and so on).

But when it comes to foot washing what difference can there be? Foot washing is foot washing!

So, as we reflect on and pray for unity among Christians, perhaps we might focus on that which we have in common – our feet. We are, after all, People of the Way, a Pilgrim People.

**Joe Green**

## Parish Information



### Mother's Day Saint Francis of Assisi, Ohariu

Mother's Day was celebrated with style and grace, with all of our Ministries coming together to celebrate motherhood. From our youngest and to our oldest parishioners who took part. Each one ensured that all women

were celebrated. To Rose and Cindy who spoke at our Masses about their roles as Mums, giving each of us a gift as they shared their stories with us.

A special thank you to Pa Pete, Wendy, Pat, Colleen, Nic, Margie, Anna, Joe, Angela, Helen, and Marie for working together to ensure these liturgies were filled with aroha. A big thank you to all those involved both in front of and behind the scenes. None of this would be possible without you all. We hope everyone who was there felt a connection, not only to their own Mums, but also with each other. Kia ora.



If you would like to read what Rose and Cindy shared with us, please click on the following links. [Rose](#) / [Cindy](#)



### Organ Recital THANK YOU

A huge thank you for the amazing generosity of those attending Rose and my concert last Saturday.

**\$517.00** has been raised and the Parish will donate this towards a Cyclone Gabrielle relief fund. We will advise who this generous amount has been donated to in the coming weeks.

Thank you to all those that attend, donated and worked hard to make this a wonderful afternoon of music and song. What an amazing response!

**David Dobson**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our children who made their First Reconciliation last Sunday.

After preparation in the holidays, Sundays and a final Friday session last week 40 children and their families were ready to celebrate this sacrament. Sadly 7 children from St Benedict's school all came down with a similar bug, so our Prodigal Son play was minus a dad, a mum, a Prodigal son, a pig and a servant at the last minute.

AND then in stepped other children and a parent and so we had a full Oscar winning quality cast - the programme commitment to making good choices and being Ripples of Love in action was alive. It was a wonderful Liturgy and the pigs were very talented using their trotters to stop the younger son eating their food!

A highlight for the children was experiencing letting go and forgiveness while seeing their poor choices burn (under supervision) while Mitch played and sang Amazing Grace. Thank you to all those who led the programme and to the parents who did their "home" work alongside their child.

We will be having another Reconciliation Liturgy for those who were ill so watch this space. **Kitty McKinley**



## Parish Information

### **ALL PARISHIONERS - WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH**

Come and See.....  
Come and Hear.....  
Come and Share Your Gifts.....

**Thursday, 25th May at 7pm**

We have many ministries in our parish, many people doing God's work.

Those coordinating any ministry are invited to come along to the parish church and hall and share with others and parishioners a brief outline of their ministries: telling us what their ministry is, how many involved, who you reach. Maybe 2 or 3 minutes. This will be an opportunity to meet and share with others in ministry.

**ALL welcome.** We look forward to seeing you there.

***'Servanthood requires the right attitudes and ambitions, not merely the right actions. Playing the part eventually shows itself. Leaders must serve from the inside out. Servanthood begins in the heart'. (Pete Roe SM)***

### **Ecumenical Service for The Week of Prayer For Christian Unity**

**7.30p.m Tuesday 23rd. May**, Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu.

Theme: Do good; seek justice [Isaiah 1:17]. Peace and justice in all creation

A river/water motif will be used during the service. Please bring along a stone to represent your personal and ancestral history.

Some stones will be available on the night. For any enquires please contact Pat Collier - [tchpat.collier@gmail.com](mailto:tchpat.collier@gmail.com)

### **Malvina Major - Anointing Mass**

Fr Brian will celebrate an Anointing Mass at Malvina Major on **Tuesday, 23 May 2 30pm** in the Chapel. Please spread the word.

Thank you to Brian Martin (Sacristan), Natalie Brockie (hospitality for Fr Brian ), Bernadine Castle, David & Pat. Any enquires please contact Judith 0212031144. Thank you.

## 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 next be presented on the weekend of **10th / 11th June**.

We welcome contributions to the Book for this presentation. Please email your article with any photos to Fiona Kearns at [fionakearnz@gmail.com](mailto:fionakearnz@gmail.com), or leave a hard copy in the specially marked "Book of Life" container in the church foyer.

### Gifting Sunday

The Second Vatican Council makes it clear that every member of the church is called to ministry in the Lord's name. This call comes out of our baptism.

On the weekend of **10 and 11 June** we'll be asking you to look into your baptismal calling. Are you called to ministry in this Parish? We'll ask you to indicate from a list of ministries in the parish, quite an extensive list. There'll be space for you to indicate if you feel called to a ministry that isn't listed.

At the same time we will update your contact details, and align the parish with the Privacy Act 2020.

Between now and then we ask you to pray for guidance in this.

**Joe Green**

### Greetings all from the Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, 23rd May, we will be having our liturgy with St Brigid's School, at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church.

**It will start at 9:15am and finish at 9:45am.** If you would like any further info please contact Ana Baice: 021 562 690.

All welcome, we would love to see you there praying with our children.

### **Calling All Altar Servers**

Now that we are getting more settled in our new as one community, we want to move forward with filling some Liturgical Ministry gaps. Most will be addressed after the upcoming "Called to Serve" Sunday.

At this stage we want to get Altar Servers back for weekend Masses.

Children need to be in Year Four or above and to have completed the Sacramental programme.

Could all children who are interested, even if you have served in the past, please get one of their parents to contact Wendy Cleaver:  
email: [cleaver@actrix.co.nz](mailto:cleaver@actrix.co.nz)

### **Bereavement Ministry**

The Bereavement Ministry brings aroha/love and tautoku/support to bereaved Whanau. We meet with the whanau to listen to their needs and help them with finalising the arrangements for the funeral. We liaise with the Funeral Director, and everyone involved with the funeral.

We give ongoing support to the whanau and organise the annual Remembrance Mass in November.

There are different roles in the Bereavement Ministry from visiting whanau through to administrative support. Full training is given to this members in this vital and rewarding ministry.

**Robyn Radomski**

### **Sacramental Programme**



If you have not already registered for the Eucharist & Confirmation Programme, and would like to participate, please [click here](#).

The Eucharist Programme will begin in July.

Bookings can be made through the Parish Office. If you have any queries, you can contact Kitty on 021 491 459 or the Parish Office, (04) 478 7137.

## Other Events/Notices

### **HOLY HOUR**

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday 23 May** at the Connolly Hall Chapel beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Included in the hour will be prayers, praise and worship, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction.

All are welcome.

### **Women's Friendship Project**

Are you a locally-connected Wellington woman who would like to get to know and be a friend with a woman from a former refugee background?

Catholic Social Services and Changemakers Refugee Forum are growing the Womens' Friendship Project with a next induction night on **Tuesday 27 June 2023.**

Pairs of women will then be introduced to each other and meet up once a week or fortnight for the next 6 months to share local experiences such as walks, gardening, and café and market visits.

Every two months you are invited to attend a larger group gathering of everyone involved in the project. Often a natural friendship continues beyond the project. If you are interested, please contact Deirdre at [d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz) or call 021 2213944.

### **Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy**

**Mary in the Scriptures** with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 19/26 June & 03/10 July, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: free. Donation/Koha appreciated.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/04/25/mary-in-the-scriptures/>

**Focus on Target - Draw Fresh Momentum** with Laetitia Puthenpadath

Tuesdays, 27 June & 04/11/18 July, 12.30-1.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$20/session or \$70/4 sessions.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/11/focus-on-target-draw-fresh-momentum/>

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

## MASS INTENTIONS



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

**Recently Deceased:** Mary Barrow, Connie Lynch, Danilo Leones Sr

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

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 20th May - Friday 26th May

### 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 - <b>REQUIEM</b>
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**

