



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Twenty First Week Ordinary Time, 21st August 2022 Year C
Readings: *Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30*



“Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.”

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”

The above are two versions of Luke 13:24 from two different Catholic sources. Entering by a narrow way and many being unable to, are the two common themes. The notion of a narrow way, and many being unable to make it through, are the two salient points being made by Jesus. Being the perfect teacher, Jesus meets his disciples on their own level.

Today we are aware of the growth of ego and becoming more resolute of our own commitments within ourselves as we approach the mid-life stage. I suspect 2,000 years ago in rural and oppressed Judea, such self-analysis may not have been front of mind following around this itinerant preacher, but they would have certainly understood the implications of passing through a narrow way. Is Jesus suggesting to them that their life's journey must be in single-file, and will indeed be very difficult?

I think in this passage Jesus wants us to shed our pretensions and false selves, and to find our true and authentic selves. He acknowledges that this is going to be difficult for many, but nonetheless this is what we are called to do. He is asking us to reduce ourselves and find our humility and further suggesting we need to muster considerable fortitude in doing so.

Last century the Trappist monk and social justice advocate Thomas Merton OCSO said “Our vocation is not simply to be, but to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny.” To know this truth Merton wrote we are to ‘pray for our own discovery’.

Peter Mulqueen

From the LFT

(This is the first of what we intend will be regular LFT Newsletter communications in this column.)

Property review and decision

As you will all be aware by now, Cardinal John has decided that a new Mass and community centre for our parish will be developed in Johnsonville. Our churches of St. Andrew's and St Benedict's are to be closed. They and their related presbyteries are to be disposed of or utilized as the parish decides. The exciting task before us now is to develop a church for the future.

Property Project – community meetings

Your participation is essential. Meetings to discuss Cardinal John's letter and how this decision will be progressed will be held very soon. We expect to have dates, times and place confirmed in next week's Newsletter. We would like as many parishioners as possible to attend to contribute to the discussion about the future of our Parish.

Property Project – human resources

Please consider whether you have skills and experience (eg pastoral, governance, project management, property, construction, architectural, financial, legal) to contribute to the success of the property project over the next few years (and contact the Parish Office or a Parish leader).

Church closures – a Reflection

This decision to close St Andrew's and St Benedict's churches – whether we anticipated it or not - will be hard for all of us. For nearly 50 years St Benedict's and St Andrew's have been at the heart of the worship of those communities. People in these communities have been baptised, married and farewelled in these churches – and we have gathered in them for Eucharist for many years.

We should also remember that it is unlikely that the church of Sts Peter and Paul will be retained in its current form – whether in whole or in part. So, in a very real sense *each* of the historical three worshipping communities will be losing its church.

These churches are part of our lives – they are our sacred ground.

Parish Information

And in the natural order of things, we would only leave our sacred ground one-by-one – as we died or relocated. The ground always remained.

But now our holy ground is to be let go, surrendered by us.... and for many it will feel as though it has been taken from us.

But it is we, the people, who make ground sacred. And perhaps a way of looking at this is that we will take the sacredness, the holiness of St Benedict's and St Andrew's and Sts Peter and Paul, with us - in the temples of our own bodies - to a new place and building in Johnsonville. There we can create something new, fresh and beautiful for God and His people.

And it is not just about building a new place of worship. Cardinal John - echoing Pope Francis - has called on us time and time again to look with new eyes, to radically rethink how we are to be the People of God in today's world – how we are to follow our mission.

So, this decision presents us with an exciting opportunity. To reorganise our mission and to design and produce buildings that help us achieve our mission – whilst nourishing and supporting our lives of faith.

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.



Parish Information

The Finance Committee and Leadership Formation Team are pleased to present the Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2022.

In the last financial year, we received income of \$400,838 which was up \$34,865 or 9.5% on the previous year's \$365,973.

A bequest of \$21,000 from a deceased parishioner also contributed to the increased revenue.

Our expenses were \$334,589 compared with \$334,370 in the prior year.

As a result, we had a surplus of \$57,688 and \$36,688 excluding the bequest.

Further details are available in the [Finance Report FY2022](#) on the Parish website.

A parish meeting will be held at a future date where the Finance Report will be presented and discussed.

Called to Serve at Ss Peter and Pauls WE NEED YOU.

On Sunday **28th August at the 10.30** Mass we are going to invite people to participate in various ministries and activities at Ss Peter and Pauls.

Please think about how you can serve in our Church Community and indicate that to us on 28th August or in the weeks following.

Blessings

St Peter and Pauls Liturgy and Pastoral teams.

Prayers of the Faithful

Each month, our weekly Prayers of the Faithful are prepared by one of our 3 Mass community's in turn.

This month our Prayers of the Faithful are being prepared by the Ss Peter & Paul's community.

If you would like to contribute to this important ministry please contact a member of your local Liturgy team.

Reverence for Life - Book of Life

We plan to restart presenting the Book of Life at our Sunday services. The first presentation will be on **Sunday the 11th of September**.

The Book represents all that is done within our parish and wider community to celebrate life.

Celebrations - can include anniversaries, family gatherings, church gatherings, community gatherings, school activities, Christmas, holidays; in fact, anything at all of interest that reflects the joy and wonder of life.

However - we need your input to make the Book of Life a beautiful book that contains your stories of how you have celebrated special events. We cannot do this well without your help.

Please be open - to sharing your stories through the Book of Life so it reflects in a vital way that all life is precious and is be nurtured and celebrated. The stories need not be long. It enhances the stories if photos accompany the text but this is not essential. All that matters is that you send in your account of a celebration.

How to send in your story:

a) by email to carol.may.ryan@gmail.com

b) by placing your story in the Book of Life plastic container placed in the foyer of Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Thank you for your input and help. Let us together make our Book of Life special and wonderous.

August WelCom - This month's WelCom is now out and available in the Church Foyers. There is a great write up of our Parish in this edition.

Annette Scullion, editor of WelCom, extends her thanks to those leaders of Ministries who helped with photos and text. The outcome looks great!

The Parish Jubilee Book is available to purchase at all three Churches. Order forms are available in the foyers. They can be put in the collection basket at Mass or sent to the office.

For further information please contact the Parish Office,
Ph: 04 478 7137 or email: bookings@stfrancisohariu.nz



Other Events/Notices

Synod Update

Parishes and Dioceses around the country took part in the local phase of Pope Francis's synodal path to the Church's future, which will culminate in an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October next year.

The NZ bishops have just published the National Synod synthesis document that emerged from the diocesan phase of the process and the National Hui held in Wellington in June.

The National document has been sent to Rome as one of the many such documents from around the Catholic world as part of the Synod process.

Please [click here](#) for a copy of the National Synod document.

Chrism Mass - Will be celebrated at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral on Wednesday, 14th September at 7pm.

Join Us - You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday 23 August** 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.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Online Sessions (Evening) **please notice the date changes and additional event:**

Marian Dogmas with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 22 August, 7-8.30pm.

Mary of Nazareth with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin and Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 29 August, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Koha/Donations welcome.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2022/08/14/mary-of-nazareth/>

Muffin Talk Radio Programme recordings and video clips on religion, inter-faith and community available at <https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

For more information and registration: www.studyjoy.nz

Other Events/Notices



We are looking for a Creative Social Worker to join our team!

Do you thrive on challenge and change? Are you a creative thinker? Then join us- out here on the margins!

Wellington Catholic Social Services is looking for a creative social worker to join our team in developing a practice model for 2022 and beyond.

This is an exciting time to join us.

Either email reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz or phone 04 385 8642.

Look forward to meeting you.

Closing date for applications is 3pm, Friday 30th September 2022.

Vacancy - Challenge 2000 seeks Youth Ministry Manager

Challenge 2000 is a Gospel-based, youth development agency that has served young people and their families for 34 years.

We are seeking a competent, visionary, passionate and versatile person, to lead a team of volunteers and youth workers to provide a range of services and programmes for children, young people and families.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to Kitty McKinley, Project Manager, at info@challenge2000.org.nz.

For more information about this role, please contact Kitty on ph: 021 491 459 or at info@challenge2000.org.nz

Applications close 26th August 2022.



The Catholic Foundation - Scholarships for students entering their first year of tertiary education opened on 01 August.

The application and criteria are available on our website. www.catholicfoundation.org.nz



MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Anne Zouch

Anniversaries: Robin Adair

Prayers for the Sick: Jessie Hensen, Joanne Gordon, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Brian Cummings, Margaret Blight, Joe Godinet, Penelope Corich, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Tau So'oa, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Maurice Carmody

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 Saturday 20th August - Sunday 28th August

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Sat: 20th August - 5pm
Vigil Mass

Sat: 27th August - 5pm
Word & Communion

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sun: 9.00am - Mass
Mon: 9.00am - Liturgy
Mon: 7.00pm - Meditation
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wed: 9.00am - Liturgy
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy
Fri: Exposition 8.30am and
Liturgy at 9.00am
Sun: 9.00am - Mass

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

Sun: 10.30am - Word &
Communion
Mon: 9.00am - Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wed: 11.00am - Mass with
morning tea
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy
Fri: 9.00am - Mass
Sun: 10.30am - Mass

Please note, **Reconciliation** is held at St Peter and Paul's on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10.30am before the 11am Mass.

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

