



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Palm Sunday 24th March 2024, Year B
Readings:: Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

High Priest And King - And A Crucifixion

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118:26).

If we are to grasp the gospel, we need to understand 1st Century Palestine.

In his book *The God Revolution* local theologian Rev. Bruce Hamill describes sacrifice in Israel as being 'upside down'. Unlike other religions, in the Jewish practice 'the blood offering becomes God's gift to the people, rather than the people's gift to God'. The priest, with the sacred name YHWH on his forehead, comes through the veil of the temple, from the holy of holies that only he may enter, and sprinkles the blood onto the people. And as he emerges they sing '*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*'.

As Jesus preached and showed the way to bring God's kingdom 'on earth as it is in heaven', and as he made his way into Jerusalem, with the crowd singing the very psalm they sang as the priest came through the veil of the temple, Jesus was presenting a direct threat to the rule of Rome, the Jewish Temple system, and to the arrangement the Jews had with Rome whereby they could worship their own God. Everyone's getting annoyed!

A crucifixion was almost certainly in the offing! 1st Century Palestinians were very familiar with crucifixion. The crosses in our churches have tended to play down the brutal horror it was. However it was just such a sacrifice that was required if God's kingdom of love was to break through.

And break through it did! The veil of the temple was torn – the separation between God and us gone in one massive, violent act of love-filled self-giving.

The men run. The women watch and wait!

Joe Green

Parish Information

Holy Week Message

During Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper), we have **no** masses or liturgies in the Parish.

We ask parishioners to use this week as a time of reflection and prayer in preparation for the Easter Triduum.

Holy Week Timetable

Palm Sunday Weekend - 23rd / 24th March

5.00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

10.00am - Sunday Mass

Holy Thursday - 28th March

7.00pm Mass

Good Friday - 29th March

10.00am Stations of the Cross

11.00am Ecumenical Walk - starting at Johnsonville Uniting Church

3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord

Easter Vigil - 30th March

7.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday - 31st March

10.00am Mass

Lenten Stations of the Cross

The final Lenten Stations of the Cross will take place this **Friday, 22nd March at 6.30pm** in our Parish Church. All Parishioners are welcome to join in this Lenten reflection.



Rite 1 Reconciliation

This will take place on **Friday, 22nd March at 6.30pm** while the Stations of the Cross are taking place in the Parish Church.

Parish Information

St Francis of Assisi Parish - Holy Thursday Mass

28th March 2024

7pm onwards

All are welcome



If you would like to participate please contact:

Ana Baice - anabaice@challenge2000.org.nz

Semanaia Agafili - semanaiaagafili@challenge2000.org.nz

School Parking

Please remember the school grounds are open for Sunday Mass parking, from **9.00am –12.00pm**. Please make sure you have your car out of the school grounds by 12.00pm as the gates will be closed.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Caritas Bishops' Lent Appeal

Lenten Giving Envelopes for the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 are available in the church foyer.

This year the envelopes are single giving envelopes.
Many thanks for your support.



Parish Information

Collection Counting

Historically parishioners have counted the collection in each parish on a Sunday for the parish staff to bank on Monday. We stopped doing this when we had collections from three churches. Now we only have one church, we would like to reinstate counting of the collection by volunteers after Mass on Sunday. It would only take an hour.

Please contact the office to join a collection counting roster.

Alpha

Come along to our PROMO NIGHT on **Tuesday, 7th May at 7.00pm** in the Church Hall, St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish, 37 Dr Taylor Tce.



To register please email: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

Sacramental Programme 2024

The enrolment process for the 2024 Parish Sacramental Programme has opened.

For further information please [click here](#). Or alternatively, email: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

NOTE:

There will be parent / caregiver meeting for all those who have children enrolled in the programme. It is very important a representative from every family attends this meeting, as this will be an information evening about the programme, dates and content.

This will be held on **Wednesday, 1st May, 7.00pm – 8.30pm** in the Parish Church.

Sacramental Dates:

Confirmation Date - **18th August**

First Communion - **Weekend of 21st / 22nd September**



Parish Information

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Did you know, we at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish, have the option of "Automatic Payments" that helps you contribute online and not having to find notes/change every Sunday.

You can do this directly via an auto-debit with your bank or drop us an email at office@stfrancisohariu.nz and we can email you the set up instructions in creating an automatic payment (weekly/monthly) according to your convenience & budget.

No more envelopes, no more cash!! Moreover, we keep the records & you are entitled to a tax deduction certificate every year (March end) that gets you **33.33%** back from the IRD at the year end for all your donations to the church.

(Example: A \$20 automatic payment per week equates to \$1040 per year. IRD gives you \$346.62 straight credit back into your bank account. but the church gets the full \$1040 to use for operating costs)

Also, if you are you not a member of our parish yet but drop in every other week and are contributing cash in the collection basket!! You too have the option to simply convert it to an envelope with your details, to ensure we keep the records and provide you with a donation certificate at the end of the financial year to allow you to claim back **33.33%** of all your support during the year.

Planned Giving

We have so many heart-warming stories of planned giving to share from amongst our parish, that has benefitted so many causes and people's lives.

There are many ways to give through planned giving, including bequests, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. Each option helps you achieve your charitable goals.

Our team is here to help you understand your options and to answer any questions you may have.

Parish Information

St Vincent de Paul Society

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 26th March at 7.00pm** in the Parish meeting room. All new members are welcome.

Newlands Passionist Group - Housie Night

Saturday, 18th May at 6.30pm. At the Johnsonville Community Centre. Entry \$15.00 per person / 3 games / Children FREE.

Proceeds to Wellington Free Ambulance and Ohariu Parish Refugee Fund.

For more information please contact:

Kerry - 027 311 6618,

Kai Mei - 022 093 2652

Nirmala - 021 108 2074

Stephanie - 021 189 3441

Liturgy Workshops

Fr Patrick Bridgman, Liturgy Advisor, will present 4 workshops centered on The Mass. The first of these workshops will be held in our Church, as follows:

What do we believe?

10.00am - 12.00pm on Saturday, 20th April.

For further workshops and information, please [click here](#).

Prayer Chain

Is someone you know in need of prayer because of health, poverty, hunger or any special need?

Email Katharina Dobson - dobsonkatharina@gmail.com or ph: 027 327 3609 or (04) 976 9191.

Your request will be passed on to the Prayer Chain.

Would you like to join the Prayer Chain and add your voice to ours?

Call or email Katharina!



Parish Information

Xtra Email

Xtra email have advised that they will soon be charging current users a fee to continue with this email. If you currently have an Xtra account and are changing provider, please advise the office, so we can update our contact details and records. Many thanks.

Other Events/Notices

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass this year will be celebrated at the Pro-Cathedral in Karori on **Wednesday, 27th March at 7.30pm**. All welcome.

Sonrise Service

This service will be held at the top of Mt Victoria on Easter Sunday, **31st March at 7.00am**. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with churches from across the city as the sun rises over Poneke.

Hosted by Capital Vineyard Church in conjunction with the Council of Wellington Churches.

For more information email: cwc1449@gmail.com or Council of Wellington Churches on Facebook.

Holy Hour

You are invited to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday, 26th March beginning at 7.30pm** in the Connolly Hall chapel, to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

This Holy Hour will include prayers, Scripture, singing, times of silence and conclude with Benediction. All are welcome.

NZ Catholic

The latest edition of NZ Catholic is now out. As a promotion, a full copy of the newspaper has been made available.

Please click the link below:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/a8a79db0-cdb5-472a-85e0-06c5df51e0e9>

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Anniversary: Mr M P Paul Parampil, Earl Perera, Marshal Concessio

Prayers for the Sick: Betty Stewart, David Ogilvie, Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Moe Pio Tafaese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Tony Bordignon, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Peter O'Connell, Fr Frank Whitaker.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 23rd March - Friday 29th March

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Sat:	5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun:	10.00am Mass - Palm Sunday
Thurs:	7.00pm Mass - Holy Thursday
Fri:	10.00am Stations of the Cross 11.00am Ecumenical Walk - Starting at Johnsonville Uniting Church 3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord

Please note, **Reconciliation** will be held **every** Wednesday 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, 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