



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Twenty Fifth Week Ordinary Time 24th September 2023, Year A
Readings:: Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24,27, Matthew 20:1-16

An Upside Down World

Today's readings present a world view that at first glance can seem far-fetched and even foolish by our reckoning!

Isaiah tells us that God's ways are not our ways, God's thoughts above our thoughts. Paul in writing to the people of Philippi explains his dilemma about whether it was better to live or to die. Matthew tells the story of the employer who pays his workers equally regardless of at what hour they had begun their day's work. "Why be envious because I am generous?" asks Jesus of his disciples.

However, when we sit prayerfully with the words of the prophet Isaiah, Paul's letter and Matthew's Gospel we glimpse the essence and motivating energy behind these passages – the generous and boundless love of God for all of Creation. Sometimes we find it hard to comprehend this wonderful reality of God's boundless love because our human love is often limited and conditioned.

The wonderful invitation to us today is to be found in the words of Isaiah "Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near." The psalmist echoes this with his words, "(God) is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts."

Let's each take a quiet time today to be with God in the quiet room of our hearts and to experience the fullness of love.

Judy McCormack



Parish Information

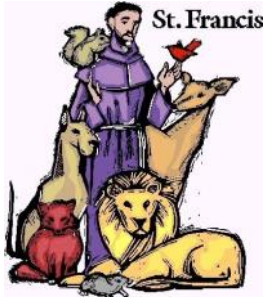
Remember - Next weekend is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, we will celebrate at both Saturday & Sunday Masses.

Children if you have a favourite animal toy - bring it with you!

If you have a favourite animal onesie - wear it!

We will bless them all.

Pete



Baptism

On Sunday, baby Zoey was baptised into our church community.

Fr Pete led a lovely baptism for Zoey with her parents Linh & Huy.

We would like to welcome Zoey into St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish.



Family Mass

Our family mass last Sunday highlighted the theme of forgiveness. Families stood together to support each other in prayer and proclamation.

Mike Havell unfolded the gospel and led us to reaffirm the importance of forgiveness particularly in families. Fr. Peter endorsed Mike's words encouraging us to make forgiveness part of our daily lives.

Our Pastoral Advisory Team have asked us to ensure that our parish is a "Family Friendly Parish". This mass was a response to that request.

Andrea Lai, accompanied by her children, spoke about the importance of families in our parish in her welcome.

My thanks to Andrea and Mike and their families for their dedication to this mass. I am also grateful to the Wilkinson [proclamation of the [gospel]] and Thomas families [Penitential Rite and offertory procession].

There was much chatter during the hospitality afterwards and I'm sure people got to know each other better. It is my hope that this initiative will continue to be a part of our parish liturgical calendar.

Please pray for our families. **Pat Collier**



Parish Information

Malvina Major

Malvina Major will be having an Ecumenical Service on Wednesday, **27th September at 2.00pm**. The service will be led by Joe Green.

All very welcome to attend.

Reverence For life Group

The Reverence for Life Group will be hosting a speaker at both Masses on the weekend of 7th & 8th October.

Rhael will speak about The House of Grace which helps young pregnant women to learn to become mothers in a safe environment.

You will have an opportunity to make a donation to support this worthy cause at the end of Mass.

On behalf of Reverence For Life - **Carol Ryan**

Alpha - Growing on the Journey...

This week at our Alpha course we learnt about the need to grow our relationship with God through prayer.

The Alpha sessions are both inspiring and practical, giving us food for reflection as well as practical ways we can grow our faith.

Talk to us if you would like to participate in a future Alpha course, or just want to know more -

Email alpha@stfrancishariu.nz

A huge thanks to Ramona who prepared a delicious meal for our Tuesday session, and to all those who are supporting our Alpha participants with their prayers.

Lucienne



SAVE THE DATE

For the Parish Dance.

Saturday, 25th November.



Church Life Survey

The Catholic Bishops of NZ have agreed to jointly participate this year in the Church Life Survey NZ. An email was sent to all those on our mailing list with a link to this survey. If you have time, it would be great if you could complete online.

If you have any queries, or would like a printed copy of this survey, please contact the Parish Office, ph: 04 478 7137.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Create Something. Creating something (e.g. art) gives you a sense of purpose, which can add meaning to your life.



Develop Relationships. The supportive nature of spending time with others will help you to develop more of a sense of meaning in your life.

Find Purpose In Pain. If you are going through something bad, try to find a purpose in it. Even if this is a bit of mental trickery, it will help to see you through. For example, if a family member is going through medical treatments for a disease, view your purpose as being there to support that person.

Understand That Life Is Not Fair. There is nobody keeping score, and you will not necessarily be dealt a fair deck. However, life can always have meaning, even in the worst of situations.

Freedom To Find Meaning. Remember that you are always free to make meaning out of your life situation. Nobody can take that away from you.

Focus On Others. Try to focus outside of yourself to get through feeling stuck about a situation.

Accept The Worst. When you go out seeking the worse, it reduces the power that it has over you.

Where To Get Help - Need to Talk? Free call or text 1737 any time to speak to a trained counsellor, for any reason.

Or [click here](#) for a full list of places to get help.

Pete Roe

Service Day For Years 7 & 8

Date: Tuesday 26th September

Time: 10am - 3pm

Where: St Francis of Assisi Church Hall

Cost: \$5 per child - or Foodbank offering

Make decorations for our
Feast Day Masses

Care for the
Earth

Want to help
others and serve

Come along
Learn and have fun

Please Register now with

Ana: anabaice@challenge2000.org.nz

or 021 227 3754

Kasileta: kasiletaseko@challenge2000.org.nz

Or Parish office 04 478 7137



Clean up back yards
or bake biscuits



Other Events/Notices

Johnsonville Op Shop

We are holding our annual thank you luncheon for all our volunteers on **Thursday, 19th October 2023 at 12.30pm** in the Friendship Lounge at the Johnsonville Community Centre.

It would be lovely if all our volunteers could come and if you like please bring a guest as we have a speaker to talk to us about the Burns Unit at Hutt Hospital and what they do. Many thanks.

Compassion Soup Kitchen Fundraiser

This Fabulous Financial Farce by April Phillips and performed by the 'New Players' -"DEATH AND TAXES" sends up the corporate world of insurance investments.

It runs from 21st to 30th September at the Gryphon Theatre Ghuznee Street, Wednesday, 27th September is the FUNDRAISER night.

Tickets \$35.00. Time - 6.45/7PM with a complimentary glass of wine.

Bookings on line: www.newplayers.org.nz

Holy Hour

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday 26th September** 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.

Seniors Week Sunday

Discover the library after hours at Waitohi Hub, Johnsonville Library on **Sunday, 8th October 4.30 - 6.30pm.**

Experience what the library has to offer in a special after hours session for seniors.

To register, ph: 04 477 6151 or email: Johnsonville.Library@wcc.govt.nz

Other Events/Notices

Notices - Titipounamu Study & Joy

Letters to the Corinthians - who were they? with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 09 Oct, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: Koha.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/09/19/letters-to-the-corinthians-who-were-they/>

Muffin Talk - Interviews on radio, podcast, video.

Bible Studies, Ecumenism, Interfaith Relations

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Current of Grace

Not so long to go now to the Current of Grace Wellington event "I am moving over the nations will you follow me?" on Saturday 7th October 2023 at St Joseph's Church Mt Victoria between 10:00am and 3:30pm.

Speaker; Josie Olsen. Healing service led by Fr John Rea SM.

Bring lunch to share. Everybody welcome.

Want to know more? Ring Steve Ready 027-356-9555 or

Email: currentofgracewellington@gmail.com

Johnsonville Community Youth Programme 2023

This is an afterschool programme for young people in years 7-13 run by the Challenge Youth Team.



We gather on Tuesdays, 3pm - 4.45pm at the Johnsonville Community Centre Hall.

We focus on and promote community engagement and leadership development through fun games and activities, shared kai and positive relationships with youth workers and young people in the community.

For further information please contact Simon Ravenhill or Challenge on ph: 04 477 6827 or email: info@challenge2000.org.nz

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: John Wee, Sr Connie Hurley RNDM

Anniversaries: Ray Vaughan, Keith Mettrick, Diane Bond, Brian de Joux, Alex Telfar

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

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

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Sat:	5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun:	10.00am Mass
Mon:	NO 9.00am Liturgy - 12.00pm Requiem Mass
Tue:	9.00am Liturgy (at the Brigidine Convent)
Wed:	11.00am Mass - Followed by Morning Tea
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

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

Parish Bank Account for Donations:
02-0524-0203642-00

