



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Second Week of Lent 25th February 2024, Year B

Readings:: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

Reflection

Personally I find the reading from Genesis a challenging reading. Abraham - a father prepared to offer his son in sacrifice to God. Abraham is remembered for His great faith and trust in God for his preparedness to take this step. But it is difficult not to imagine that Isaac would have been traumatised by the experience.

This incident is seen as a fore runner to Jesus dying on the cross and offering himself in sacrifice to His Heavenly Father for the sins of all man kind. Hence the reading from Romans which states clearly that God the Father did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all. An amazing act of love which bought for us salvation and the gift of eternal life.

The story of the Transfiguration reflects the depth of the love between Jesus and His Heavenly Father. On the mountain Jesus was bathed, was glorified, in the love and light of His Father; a love and light which transformed His appearance into something indescribable in the depth of its beauty. Then came the Heavenly voice; **"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!"**

Jesus understood the time would come when he would be executed as He and His message of faith and love was seen as a threat to the religious tradition and practice of Judaism. He also knew the offering of His life back to His Father for the sins of mankind was necessary for the salvation of all who came to believe in Him.

The Transfiguration is the turning point in Mark's gospel. Jesus now sets His eyes on Jerusalem. Before the Transfiguration, at the time of Peter's declaration of faith, and now on the way down the mountain, Jesus prepares His disciples for His death and resurrection. On the Mountain the apostles had seen the wonder of His glory with the Father; when the time came this experience would help them understand the wonder of His Resurrection.

"Listen to Him." This instruction on the Mountain to the apostles also applies to us today. We must **"Listen to Jesus."**

Ewen Laursen

Parish Information

Lenten Stations of the Cross

The Lenten Stations of the Cross will begin this Friday. Dates as follows:

23rd February
1st March
8th March
15th March
22nd March



They will begin at **6.30pm** and will be held at our Parish Church, St Francis of Assisi Ohariu.

All Parishioners are welcome to join in this Lenten reflection.

If any person or group is interested in helping lead these evenings, please phone Solomon Concessio on ph: 021 201 7160 or email your details to concessio.solomon@gmail.com

Kia ora

Lenten Reflections 2024

"The Time is Now". Come along and reflect on the Sunday's gospels.

Share your Lenten journey with fellow parishioners.

Discuss practical ways of journeying through Lent.

If interested please indicate whether a day or night time is convenient for you, and if you have a preference for day of the week.

Groups will be formed according to the number of people interested.

Please email parish office if interested - office@stfrancisohariu.nz

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, you can give once or weekly, as is your preference. Many thanks for your support.

Parish Information

Reconciliation

Details as follows for Rite I and Rite II Reconciliation in St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish and the Pastoral Area during the Lent.

Rite 1 Reconciliation

I will be available on the following Fridays during Lent while the Stations of the Cross are taking place at **6.30pm** in the Parish Church:

23rd February
1st March
8th March
15th March
22nd March

Rite II Reconciliation

My brother priests and myself will supply in the other parishes around the pastoral area during Lent by these now confirmed times and dates:

Sunday, 3rd March - Our Lady of Hope Parish Tawa - **7pm**

Sunday, 10th March - St Theresa's Parish Plimmerton - **4pm**

Thursday, 14th March - St Francis of Assisi Parish Ohariu (us), Jville - **6pm**

Wednesday 20th March - Holy Family Parish, Porirua East - **6pm.**

Blessings,
Father Alfred Tong

Parish Newsletter

If you are not receiving this newsletter or any Parish updates by email or on the Church App, please send your details to the Parish Office email: **office@stfrancisohariu.nz**

Alternatively you can register through our website by clicking on subscribe on the homepage, or [click here](#).

Lenten Reflection - Week 2

GOSPEL REFLECTION: ENCOUNTERING GOD AND TIMES OF TRANSFORMATION

Jesus led Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. Mountains and cloud often signify the presence of God with his people. For example, God was present to Elijah on a mountain (1 Kings 19:8). God revealed himself to Moses and gave the Ten Commandments on top of a mountain (Exodus 19:20).

The Israelites were guided by pillars of cloud and fire in the wilderness (Exodus 13:17-22).

God continues to turn up in the lives of His people. From a cloud God spoke in a voice saying that Jesus was God's Son "The Beloved" and urging the disciples to listen to Jesus. God continues to speak to His people. The question is whether we are listening for God's voice.

Peter did not know what to say because the disciples were terrified. As we follow Jesus, we should not be surprised that as we encounter God there are times of confusion.

At times God seems close to us and His purposes seem to be clear. But at other times He seems distant, and His purposes are not clear to us. At these times we are called to have faith in God. In a similar way while they were on the mountain, the disciples encountered Jesus in a new way – He was linked to the Divine. But their understanding was still limited and confused.

Transformation always involves passing through darkness and the storms of life.

Each day we have the invitation to rely on God for what we need through prayer and reading the Gospel message.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- In what ways have you encountered God?
- What might help us hear God's voice?
- How open am I to being transformed?

This material can all be found on the Caritas Website. [Click here](#)

Congratulations - Fiona Kearns



St Brigid's School, Johnsonville acknowledges and celebrates **Fiona Kearns** (Deputy Principal), on her remarkable 30-year tenure at St Brigid's; an impressive milestone!

Fiona began her teaching journey at St Brigid's in February 1994 as a beginning teacher.

She has held various roles in the school over the past three decades, from classroom teacher, team leader, Director of Religious Studies, Deputy Principal & Acting Principal.

The St Brigid's Board of Trustees would like to thank Fiona Kearns on behalf of the school community for three decades of dedicated outstanding service and leadership at St Brigid's School.

Jennifer Ioannou

Weekly School Liturgy with The Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, **27th February**, we will be having our liturgy with St Brigid's School, at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church. It will start at **9:15am**.

Next Thursday, **29th February**, we will be having our liturgy with St Benedict's School, in the school classrooms at **9.00am**.

If you would like any further info please contact: Ana Baice, ph: 021 227 3754.

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



Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Other Events/Notices

World Day of Prayer Service

Will be held on **Friday, 1st March at 10.00 am**. The venue is at St John's Church, 18 Bassett Road, Johnsonville.

The theme for 2024, prepared by the Palestinian Christian women several years earlier, is: **"I beg you, bear with one another in love"**.

These people need our love, prayers and support. The service will be followed by morning tea. All welcome.

Holy Hour

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on **Tuesday, 27th February** 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.

Catholic Women's League NZ

80th Birthday and Conference

When: Saturday, 16th March & Sunday, 17th March 2024

Times: 1.00pm Start
5.00pm Mass
6.00pm Dinner and Entertainment

Sunday workshop with Joy Cowley

Costs: Registration - \$40
Dinner - \$30

Contact: Helen Greig - archdio.sec@gmail.com or
Ph: 027 528 9635

Location: St Bernadette's Church Hall,
190 Naenae Road, Naenae, Lower Hutt



You are all invited to celebrate with us.

Other Events/Notices

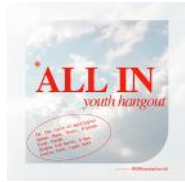
Video of NZ Experiences of the Synod on Synodality

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin, SM, Wairarapa Parish Priest Fr Dennis Nacorda, and Auckland Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley have shared their experiences of the Holy Father's Synod on Synodality in Rome last October.

This YouTube video is a recording of a Zoom session they held with a live audience on Thursday, 15th February 2024.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COKdE6mlojU>

Get Excited For An ALL IN Hangout!!



Gather your friends, your schools and your youth groups for an afternoon of games, activities and faith.

Catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Sunday 3rd March, 2-5pm, Avalon Park, Lower Hutt.

Article

Wellington elects new Anglican Assistant Archbishop.

<https://anglicanmovement.nz/blog/wellington-elects-new-assistant-bishop>

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.

Sundays, 03 Mar, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>

The Mystery of Miracles

Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm

\$25/session or \$80/series, incl. study material.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>

The Stations of the Cross - Reflections on Wood Carvings.

Available in English and Samoan. \$7 incl. postage

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/08/11/reflection-on-wood-carvings/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: George Cheesman, Rommel Cabanela, William Fitzgerald, Bernard Fonseka

Anniversaries: Rafael Aidan Camerino

Prayers for the Sick: Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Archbishop Novartus Rugambwa, 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 24th February - Friday 1st March

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 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** 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