



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

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

**Twelfth Week Ordinary Time Sunday 25th June 2023, Year A**  
**Readings:: Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33**



## **JOHN THE BAPTIST: WILD WISE MAN**

John the Baptist goes on his vision quest into the desert where he faces his aloneness, boredom and naked self. He returns with a message, a clarity, a surety of heart that reveals a totally surrendered man. First he listens long and self-forgetfully; then he speaks, acts and accepts the consequences. Surely he is the ultimate wild man! Or is it wise man? He is both.

Always pointing beyond himself, ready to get out of the way, finally beheaded by the powers that be, John represents the kind of liberation and the kind of prophecy that we need in our affluent culture. He is not just free from the system, he is amazingly free from himself. These are the only prophets God can use, the only prophets we can trust.

John is seen by his contemporaries and by Jesus Himself as a return and image of Elijah the Prophet. Elijah, of course, is the contemplative on Mount Horeb who met the Holy One "not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in the sound of a gentle breeze" (1Kings 19:11-13). He has fled to the prayer of the mountain from the hostility of king and queen, who see him as "the troubler of Israel" (1Kings 18:17), who makes clear their idolatries.

Who wants to be a troubler? Who would dare to think of himself /herself as a prophet? What did we come out to the desert to see? John the Baptist seems to tell us that it is the only place to bare enough, empty enough to mirror our own motives and disguises.

The desert is the prophet. We had to come here, we had to come to the quiet, we have to trust people like John to begin to trust our own action and reflection. Trouble us, John! You're our pointing-patron-prophet. We're not wild yet.

### **Short Prayer:**

Loving God, thank You for reminding us to trust people, like John the Baptist to begin to trust our own action and reflection. He is indeed our pointing-patron-prophet. Amen

**Pete sm**

### Message from Pete

Greetings to you all

Just to let you know that I will be away from our Parish for July 2023.

I have some surgery ahead of me plus the fact that I have delayed for some time, and now been advised to get cracking and have a comprehensive medical/physical assessment on other areas that are related to the process of 'growing up' and 'getting older'. In other words, time for an overhaul.

Be assured all is covered within our Parish over this month.

Thanks to you all.

Blessings, **Pete**



### Baptism

Zhe (Tracey) Lu & Oscar Hodge

Mother and son Zhe and Oscar were baptised together on Sunday 18 June 2023.

The sponsors were Jo-Anne and Michael Carley for Zhe and Tania Savage for Oscar.

The Presiding Priest was Fr Pete Roe SM.

They are warmly welcomed into the parish of St Francis Assisi, Ohariu.



## Parish Information

### Transitional Team

The Transitional Team met last Wednesday evening for an informal meeting to get to know one another; among matters discussed was the encouraging progress that parishioners have driven in uniting as one community at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu since the church amalgamations in February.

There was discussion around how best the team and ministries could continue to support and enable this wonderful beginning.

More news will be available on the Parish website once formal meetings are held.

**Henry, Margie, Mary, Natasha, Angela, Joe & Pete**

### CATCH UP Sacrament of Reconciliation Liturgy



**When:** 2nd July, 2023

**Where:** St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church, Johnsonville

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Who:** Children who were sick, couldn't make it last time

**Reply:** Parish Office - [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz) or  
Kitty - [kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz)

### Happy Birthday

On behalf of everyone from St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish, we would like to wish Sr Cyprian a very happy birthday, for Saturday, 24th June.

On Wednesday, following our 11am Mass, we had a lovely morning tea to celebrate this special day.

Sr Cyprian, your presence with us continues to be a blessing for the Parish.



## Parish Information



### Refugee & Migrant Sunday

Was celebrated by the Parish during Vigil & Sunday Mass, 17th & 18th June.

Refugee and Migrant Sunday was a chance to honour 'new' New Zealanders who have come here as migrants or under the Refugee pathway.

The essential difference between the two is that migrants make a free choice to emigrate to New Zealand whereas refugees need to leave their home country at short notice and have no freedom over which country they are given refuge in, or which city they are moved to, once they make it to New Zealand.

The heartfelt reflections during Mass were given by former refugee women Ilknur Gusel from Turkey and Johanna Rodriquez from Colombia.



Huge thanks to everyone who contributed; all the servers, the musicians, those that offered Prayers of the Faithful in their first language, those who wore their wonderful national costumes; prepared morning tea and socialised with each other.

Our parish is enriched by this beautiful diversity.

**Jo-Anne Carley**



### Synod 2023

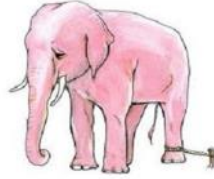
#### **INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS - XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS**

On Tuesday, 20th June (Rome time), this document was released. It is the basis of discussion at the October 2023 Synod.

For a copy of the document, please [click here](#).

## The Elephant Rope

A gentleman was walking through an elephant camp, and he spotted that the elephants weren't being kept in cages or held by the use of chains.



**ELEPHANT  
ROPE**

All that was holding them back from escaping the camp, was a small piece of rope tied to one of their legs.

As the man gazed upon the elephants, he was completely confused as to why the elephants didn't just use their strength to break the rope and escape the camp. They could easily have done so, but instead, they didn't try to at all.

Curious and wanting to know the answer, he asked a trainer nearby why the elephants were just standing there and never tried to escape.

The trainer replied; 'When they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.

The only reason that the elephants weren't breaking free and escaping from the camp was that over time they adopted the belief that it just wasn't possible.

**Moral of the story:** 'Just remember that, NO matter how much the world tries to hold you back from your achievements, always continue with the belief that what you want to achieve is possible and you can achieve it with your hard work. Believing in yourself is the most important step in achieving your goal. **Pete sm**

*'Vulnerability is not weakness, and the uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure we face every day are not optional. Our only choice is a question of engagement. Our willingness to own and engage with our vulnerability determines the depth of our courage and the clarity of our purpose; the level to which we protect ourselves from being vulnerable is a measure of our fear and disconnection'.*

**Brene Brown**

## Parish Information

### Volunteer Training

Volunteer training for those involved in supporting different communities or who would like to be involved in this ministry is now being offered through our Parish Outreach Committee.

Our Parish and Challenge 2000 is known and respected for the grassroots work we do in our different communities.

As part of this work we are beginning a Volunteer information and training programme on **Sunday, 2nd July from 2.00pm -4 .00pm** in the church hall.

If you wish to become a volunteer, upskill or even be involved in the next Sacramental Programme, then please contact:  
Kitty McKinley, Challenge 2000 on 044776827 or  
email: [kittymckinley@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:kittymckinley@challenge2000.org.nz) or the Parish Office, 04 4787137 with your basic details to register.

### Sacramental Programme



If you have not already registered for the Eucharist and 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.

### Weekly School Liturgy with The Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, 27th June, 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 June, will be a school Mass for St Benedict's - there will be no at the school on this day.

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

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

## Parish Information

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Connect with new people in your area → Watch an episode on a topic of faith → Ask questions and share your thoughts



## Other Events/Notices

### Astronomical Society

The Focolare Movement have organised an Ecumenical event. Anthony Gomez from the Wellington Astronomical Society will be giving a presentation about the stars, Matariki and the challenge of climate change.

There will also be an opportunity to view the night sky using telescopes.

**Venue:** St John's Anglican Hall, 18 Bassett Road, Johnsonville  
**Time:** Friday, 14th July, 5.30pm –9.00pm  
**Bring:** A plate to share and warm clothes, blanket, gloves etc  
**Donation:** To contribute towards the hall  
**Contact:** Robert McClean ph: 022 067 6655 or mccleanrobert@gmail.com

### Focolare Fundraiser

The Focolare is raising funds for Youth projects. On **Sunday 2nd July at 5pm** at Petone Light House Cinema the new movie on Indiana Jones will be shown.

The tickets are \$20 each. Text Ian on 022 544 3872 with name and number of tickets and I will get the tickets to you. **Ian Hamilton**



## MASS INTENTIONS



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

**Recently Deceased:** Avril Da Vanzo, Milena Molano Urquina

**Prayers for the Sick:** Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Janet Scapolo, 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 24th June - Friday 30th June

### 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 - 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

Email: [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz), Phone: 04 478 7137

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

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

