



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

**Fifth Week of Lent, 26th March 2023, Year A**  
**Readings::** Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45

Dear St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Community,

## **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.**



Unfortunately, I am in Auckland this weekend and do not have the opportunity to speak with you in person.

However, I do need to speak to you all about our Parish Community in light of Cardinal John Dews letter that was distributed at our Masses last weekend on Saturday 18/3 and Sunday 19/3, referring to the change to our Leadership Model for 2023.

In December 2019 Cardinal John Dew mandated that a Leadership Formation team (LFT), be established to work with myself as Parish Administrator to create a new model of being a Church in the now and into our future. This came with accepting the need for transformation within our own hearts and to recognise new pastoral possibilities and outreach in all aspects of our parish life.

The foundation team that was appointed by Cardinal John Dew at this time were Paul Alsford, Sister Jude McGinley, John Lawson, Paul Whitehouse, Thomas Davis, Kitty McKinley, Shane Dinnan, Paul Betham, and John Kleinsman and later in February 2020 Anna Mika-Hunt and Marushka Caldeiro were asked by their St Andrews Community to be their representatives on this Team.

Following the years after, Tim Gordon joined as our Transition Manager and later Clayton Dias and Vivian Gonzales became part of the team.

Over the past 4 years several members of the original 'Leadership Formation Team' left. That included the sudden death of our well respected and loved Paul Betham in 2022.

## Parish Information

Why I mention all these Parish Members who took up this Leadership Role over these years, is because as a Parish Community we need to deeply thank them for the gift of their time, wisdom and service to our vision.

I also wish to acknowledge the remaining members of the Leadership Formation Team being Shane Dinnan, John Kleinsman, John Lawson and Vivian Gonzales, it is my hope, when the time is right, we as the Community of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, will gather, to celebrate and give thanks to everyone who served on the Leadership Formation Team for their generosity of beginning this journey on the Road Less Travelled.

I can assure you, that we as a Parish will now build on what has been achieved by these Members. We will continue to build and develop this work already begun and there is a need to continue with the many existing relationships, ministries, portfolios, and resources already established.

As mentioned in Cardinal John's letter, later this year Archbishop Paul will appoint a Parish Priest who will take up this role early 2024. In the interim, we will work closely with our Ministries and the Advisory Team.

In this transition, I ask that each one of you to lend a hand in this next stage of our Parish Development where you can.

This begins by looking at our gifts, what I mean is I have my gifts and you have yours. Together we can inspire and empower one another and build a community that models itself on St Francis. Most of all our Parish becomes a Parish community where we enjoy collaboratively working together, celebrating together, praying together, supporting one another and to continue to build on being a culturally diverse and inclusive community, and reach out to others who are searching and seeking for something more than what they have in their own life or faith path.

**Where is God calling us to be?** It is to our faith community at St Francis Ohariu and our direction is clear. 'We are all being invited, and challenged, to move beyond our comfort zones and to be Missionaries for Christ together.'

**Blessings and Courage for all of us**

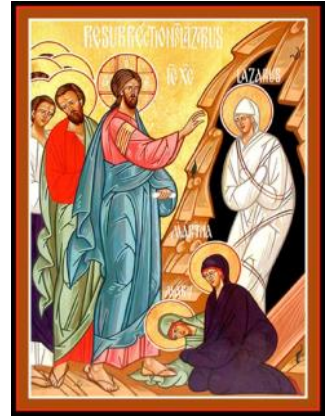
**Pete Roe sm**



**"Unbind him, let him go free." John 11:44**

From the David Bowie song "Lazarus".

Look up here, I'm in heaven  
I've got scars that can't be seen  
I've got drama, can't be stolen  
Everybody knows me now  
Look up here, man, I'm in danger  
I've got nothing left to lose  
I'm so high it makes my brain whirl  
Dropped my cell phone down below  
Ain't that just like me?



Some of us have had near-death experiences, or perhaps on occasion have thought about near-death experiences. Many of us have experienced the death of a loved one. Lazarus went one step further. David Bowie gave his modern interpretation above of what Lazarus might have experienced those 4 days in the tomb.

Orthodox tradition suggests that after Lazarus was raised, he fled Bethaney and sailed to Cyprus, become a Bishop under Sts Paul and Barnabas, and died again some years later in Larnaka.

Its difficult to imagine the full extent of Lazarus being made FREE after his resurrection. A few days later Jesus would be brutally crucified, and then whispers would begin to abound that Jesus too has been resurrected just like he was.

Lazarus' heart must be just about at bursting point with hope hearing this news. The Way was indeed underway. He knew the dangers of staying in Judea, and was spirited off to Cyprus. I can imagine he lived the fullest and most devoted life possible having been given his 'second chance'.

Imagine when the former persecutor-in-chief of the Way, Paul, crossed paths in Cyprus with Lazarus. That first nervous meeting must be one of the greatest acts of loving ones' enemies in history. We need that spirit now more than ever.

**Peter Mulqueen**

## **Parish Information**

### **Holy Week Timetable**

#### **Palm Sunday Weekend - 1st / 2nd April**

5.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass  
10.00am Sunday Mass  
7.00pm Sunday Communal Reconciliation

#### **Holy Thursday - 6th April**

7.00pm Mass

#### **Good Friday - 7th April**

10.00am Family Liturgy  
11.00am Ecumenical Walk  
3.00pm Liturgy

#### **Easter Vigil - 8th April**

7.00pm Mass

#### **Easter Sunday - 9th April**

10.00am Mass

Easter Ceremonies - If you would like to be involved in any of the ceremonies over Easter, please contact Wendy Cleaver email: [cleaver@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:cleaver@actrix.gen.nz)

### **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.

You are invited to spend time in your own "personal garden" to reflect in prayer on your life and the life Jesus has given us in these days.

**Individual Reconciliation** - Fr Pete will be in the Church on **Tuesday, 4th April** from 6.30pm - 7.30pm, if anyone would like individual reconciliation.

## **Parish Information**

### **Holy Thursday Saint Francis of Assisi, Ohariu Parish Church April 6th at 7.00pm**

You are invited to attend and participate in our Holy Thursday Mass. The Youth team at Challenge 2000 and some of our outreach ministries are planning a beautiful liturgy to reflect the importance of this Mass as part of our Easter Haerenga (journey) together.

If you would like to participate in any way at all, please contact Marie Paurini 027 2838580 or Kitty McKinley 021 491459.

Suggestions/ideas/talents to share are welcome. Kia ora.

### **Good Friday Family Liturgy 10.00am**

This is a special liturgy prepared for families. Come and be at the foot of the cross. Be with Jesus on his way to Calvary. Place a message at the foot of the cross. Spend time in prayer.

At 11.00a.m the Ecumenical Walk of the cross will start at the Uniting Church and walk down Dr. Taylor Tce, Broderick Rd, up Main Rd to St. John's Anglican church.

It would be good to see many families join in the walk at the conclusion of our family liturgy.

### **Family Life**

Over this weekend, 25th/26th March the church will be celebrating Family Life. It is within committed and loving families that relationships flourish and a culture of life is developed.

To support this celebration of Family Life our Reverence for Life group is organising a time of prayer to be held on the afternoon of this Sunday the 26th March.

We will meet in the Brigidine Convent Chapel from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

We would welcome you to come and join with us in this time of prayer. We welcome your presence no matter how long you are able to be with us.

## Parish Information

### Lenten Stations of The Cross

Next Wednesday, 29th March at 7.00p.m.  
At St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church, 37 Dr Taylor Tce,  
Johnsonville.



### Lenten Reflection Group

Next Wednesday night,

**29 March** - *Carrying Crosses Together. Led by Jo-Anne Carley*

**Time:** 7.00pm to 8.00pm

**Venue:** the Chapel space at Challenge 2000, 1 Wanaka Street,  
Johnsonville. It would be nice to know if you are planning to come; all  
welcome.

Jo-Anne Carley phone 022 300 7413 . Email [jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz) or  
Ana Baice 021 227 3754.

### Lenten Reconciliation - Palm Sunday - 2nd April

Communal reconciliation is a way of acknowledging how our actions and lack of actions impact on others such as our church communities, family and those we meet in our daily lives.

It is a way of showing our need to turn back to God with renewed faith, hope and enthusiasm. This is why it is often referred to as a sacrament of mercy and forgiveness.

It is a chance to look deeply at our vulnerabilities, because our vulnerabilities are our strength - it is a time to reflect the strengths so that our focus is not always on our vulnerabilities. The whole purpose is to link us more closely and yet once again more fully with the love and life of God.

### **Come and be at peace with God and one another.**

Join us for our communal reconciliation at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church on, **Palm Sunday, 2nd April 2023 at 7.00pm**

## **Parish Information**

### **Greetings all from the Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000**

This coming Tuesday, 28th March we will be having our liturgy with St Brigid's School, at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church.

**It will start at 9:15am and finish at 9:45am.**

If you would like any further info please contact Ana Baice: 021 562 690. All welcome, we would love to see you there praying with our children.

### **Sacramental Programme**

The Sacramental Programme for this year will begin with Reconciliation. Challenge 2000 and the Youth Team will be holding Sunday sessions as well as a holiday programme.

Further information will follow next week. We will communicate this through the Parish, Schools and Challenge.

In the meantime if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ana Baice - 021 562 690 or the Parish Office - 04 478 7137.

### **Marist Messenger Reflections**

All those who were regular subscribers will know that this magazine has ceased publication but fortunately Fr Jim Dooley has offered us his April reflections which had already prepared.

If you would like either an email or printed copy of these , please email me on [cleaver@actrix.co.nz](mailto:cleaver@actrix.co.nz)

We are very grateful to Fr Jim for generously sharing his work with us.

### **Chrism Mass**

Monday, 3rd April at the Pro Cathedral, St Teresa's Karori at 7.00pm.

The Oils for the anointing of the sick, the anointing of those to be baptised and the anointing of those baptised, confirmed and ordained will be blessed and consecrated during the Mass. All welcome to come and celebrate.

## MASS INTENTIONS



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

**Recently Deceased:** Pat Williams, Egon Graf, John Stretch

**Anniversaries:** Flyne Ordonio

**Prayers for the Sick:** Cardinal John Dew, David Clarke, Jessie Hensen, Jennifer Munro, Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Fr Frank Whitaker, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Penelope Corich, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Peter O'Connell, Fr Kevin Purcell, Joe Godinet.

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 25th March - Friday 31st 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 the Brigidine Convent)
Wed:	11.00am Mass - with 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.

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

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

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

