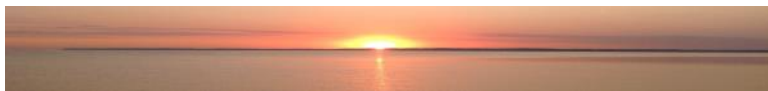




# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

**Feast of Christ the King 26th November 2023, Year A**  
**Readings:: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, Corinthians 15:20-26,28, Matthew 25:31-46**



## **St Francis of Assisi Parish: Rite III**

Advent Communal Celebration of Reconciliation and Anointing.

The Spirit provides the grace that allows us to include and transform together in a Communal way through forgiveness within our celebration of Reconciliation and Anointing

Remember, when we speak of Advent or preparing for Christmas, we're not just talking about waiting for the little baby Jesus to be born. That already happened 2,000 years ago. In fact, we're welcoming the Universal Christ, the Christ that is forever being born in the human soul and into history.

And believe me, we do have to make room, because right now there is no room in the inn for such a mystery. We are present here tonight to make that room in ourselves.



### **So what is Rite III?**

The defining characteristic of Rite III is when a priest is able to absolve a large group of people who have expressed sorrow for sin without hearing an individual confession.

- It includes a communal prayer of confession and forgiveness.
- Followed by individual anointing with the sacred oil of healing.
- Then there is a general absolution by the priest, leading us into our communal act of sorrow as a sign of our new beginning within each of our lives

Let's continue to pray for one another over this time.  
Amen. **Fr Pete**



## Parish Information

### Masses

On the weekend of 23rd / 24th December we will hold the regular Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.00pm.

**Note: NO** 10.00am Mass on the morning of 24th December, the first Mass for that day will be the 5pm Christmas Eve carols and Mass.

### Christmas Mass Times

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**7.00pm - Communal Reconciliation & Parish Anointing**

#### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

**5.00pm - Vigil Mass**

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

**5.00pm Carols for 5.30pm Family Mass**

**7.30pm Carols for 8.00pm Mass**

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

**10.00am - Mass**

#### Week of 26<sup>th</sup> Dec -29<sup>th</sup> December

**No Weekday Mass or Liturgies**

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December

**5.00pm - Vigil Mass**

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

**10.00am - Mass**

#### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

**10.00am - Mass**

### **Advent Liturgy**

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of the Christ Child when we are invited by the prophet Isaiah to 'Wake up!' and 'Prepare the Way' for Jesus' coming into our world at Christmas.

To help you prepare this Advent there will be a time for prayer and shared reflection.

**When:** Four Sundays starting today 26 November and the following three Sundays - 3, 10, 17 December

Note: we are starting a week before the first Sunday in Advent because the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve and close to the Christmas vigil Eucharist.

**Where:** In our Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

**Time:** From 4.00 to 5.00 pm

You are welcome to come to all four or some of the sessions.

For further information contact:

Wendy – [cleaver@actrix.co.nz](mailto:cleaver@actrix.co.nz) Judy – [judymac@actrix.co.nz](mailto:judymac@actrix.co.nz)

### **Reverence for Life**

The Reverence for Life group exists in our parish to promote a " Culture of Life in which every person, born and unborn, is protected and loved."

**One of our activities** is every three months to present at Mass the Book of Life. The Book of Life is a record of personal, family, church and community events that celebrate special occasions reflecting a celebration of life.

**The Book will next be presented on the weekend of the 8th/9th December.**

We welcome contributions to the Book for this presentation. Your contribution of a celebration event not only enriches our Book of Life but it helps to build awareness of the preciousness and dignity of life in all its stages from conception to death.

Please email your article with any photos to Fiona Kearns at email: [fionaearnz@gmail.com](mailto:fionaearnz@gmail.com), or leave a hard copy in the specially marked "Book of Life" container in the church foyer. Thank you for your support.

## Parish Information

### Welcome

On Sunday we baptised Lucia Mary Davis, Stanley Kāhu Martin Edwards & Camille Emmeline Tait into the Parish.

Welcome to St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish.



### School Reconciliation

This week St Benedict's & St Brigid's Schools gathered to celebrate Advent Reconciliation.

St Benedict's held their Reconciliation in the school library and St Brigid's gathered at the Parish Church.



### Welcome

Join us for a Welcome Morning Tea to New Parishioners! We invite you to gather with us on **Sunday, 3rd December**, (First Sunday of Advent), immediately following the 10am Mass.

Extend this warm invitation to all our newcomers and share in the joy of community.

## Parish Information

### Our Crib

This year, as we combine Christmas traditions from three church communities, and work within the limiting space that is our transitional or "make do church", you will see that the crib will look a little different.

In doing so we return to what scripture scholars tell us is the more likely nativity scene, rather than the one we inherited from medieval Catholicism (not that's there's anything wrong with that).

The word 'inn' is used in Luke's gospel in two places – the place of Jesus' birth and the place of the last supper. It does not refer to a commercial inn as we picture it, it refers to the guest room, an important room in a society that placed a real emphasis on hospitality. This room was above (as in the last supper) or alongside the common family living area.

With the census taking place, and many family in town, these guest rooms were full. It is likely that Joseph and Mary were then accommodated in the shared family room, next to and a bit above the level where the animals were accommodated. The "manger" would have been either a hollow in the floor of the common family room or a wooden tray that the animals could nose into to feed.

It would have been very shameful for Joseph, his wider family and the village if a baby were born in the stock pen.

So, making do with our space, we'll set the crib up this year to look more like this. It will also place it in a handy spot for the family Mass on Christmas Eve.

**Joe Green**

### The Jesse Tree

The Jesse tree is a tradition that introduces Jesus' ancestors.

It is named after Jessie, the father of King David.

After Mass each Sunday during Advent we will decorate the tree with symbols representing stories from the Bible.

The children of the Parish have already started colouring the symbols and will be invited to place them on the tree after each Sunday Advent Mass.

If you would like a symbol contact Pat Collier at 10.00am Mass.

## Parish Information

### St Vincent de Paul Conference Meeting

This will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 28th November in the Church meeting room. All very welcome.

### St Vincent de Paul St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Conference

Our St Vincent de Paul conference plans to give hampers of sweet treats, appropriate for Christmas, to our clients and those of Challenge 2000.



With your help we can add interest to these hampers if you are able to add edible treats, or tea, coffee, or drinking chocolate. We can't manage goods requiring refrigeration. As a guide: items which you would enjoy yourself are welcome.

We are packing hampers for distribution over the weekend of 9th / 10th December. Please add any donations to the basket in the centre aisle by **Sunday, 3rd December**. Many thanks.

### Christmas Giving Appeal

As we approach the Christmas season we are very much aware that many families will be worried about how they will cope. As you are able, we ask that you think of these families and open your pantry, your wallet and your hearts.

St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 work in partnership providing a foodbank for the needy.

Between now and mid December, please consider increased donations of non-perishable food items to the foodbank. Food will be distributed by this partnership.

You might prefer to donate "cash" - there are two ways that you can do this - in an envelope clearly labelled "helping out at Christmas appeal", or, supermarket gift vouchers. Just pop these into the collection plate. The cash will be turned into supermarket vouchers. These will be distributed to needy families by Fr Pete and Joe, our pastoral leaders.

Your gift from the heart - he tuku aroha - could make a difference to families. Please give generously.

## Parish Information

### St Andrew's Day

St Andrew's Feast Day will be celebrated on **Wednesday, 29th November** with Mass at 11.00am.

In the course of archiving papers, 3 photo albums have been updated with names of those in some of the photos. The 3 books will be available to view on the weekend of 25th / 26th November, on Wednesday 29th November and the weekend of 2nd / 3rd December.

Filling in the gaps would be appreciated. If you recognise any of the unnamed people in the photos, please add their names to the sheets provided. Many thanks.

**Colleen Campbell.**

## Other Events/Notices

### Mass

The last Mass for Alternative Thinkers in 2023 will be led by Fr Eddie Condra at the Challenge Marist Chapel, 1 Wanaka Street, Johnsonville at 4pm on **Sunday 26th November.**

There will be a cuppa to follow and all are welcome. By way of koha, please bring an item for the Challenge 2000 Christmas food parcels.

### Christmas Carols


**Sunday, 3rd December** at St John's Anglican Church, 18 Basset Rd, Jville.

**Time:** 4.00 - 7.00pm with CAROLS followed by shared dinner.

All very welcome. Kids more than welcome to come dressed as angels, shepherds.....

For more information contact the Focolare Centres.

Ph: 04 478 7962 / 04 477 9538 or email: [newzealand-w@focolare.org](mailto:newzealand-w@focolare.org)



The poster features a red background with a decorative border of green pine branches, red berries, and a red bow at the top. The text is written in a mix of white and red fonts. At the top, it says 'Ngaio Community' in a white script font, followed by 'CHRISTMAS CAROLS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, it says 'Sunday 3rd December 7:00 PM' in a red, sans-serif font. At the bottom, it says 'ONSLow COMMUNITY CHURCH' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by '4 Ngatoto Street, Ngaio' and '04 479 6329' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

*Ngaio Community*  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**Sunday 3rd December 7:00 PM**

**ONSLow COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
4 Ngatoto Street, Ngaio  
04 479 6329

## MASS INTENTIONS

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



**Recently Deceased:** Sr Mary Scanlon LCM, Fr Paul Shanahan SM, Margaret O'Connor

**Anniversaries:** Patricia Davidson, Maria Katarina Lemalu, James Dooley, Winifred Dooley

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

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 25th November - Friday 1st December

### 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** 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)

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

Parish Bank Account for Donations:

**02-0524-0203642-00**

