



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fourth Week of Lent 27th March 2022 Year C

Readings: *Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

The prodigal son/The merciful father

Jesus came to tell us the good news about the reign of God.

And the people were waiting for the good news. But they were looking in the wrong places. They were looking for a spectacular demonstration of God's terrible power and the conquest of their enemies. Jesus had to show them where to look.

So, he taught them - in parables - that the reign of God is something mysterious, hidden, of immense life-changing value.

It's like finding a treasure buried in a field – or a precious pearl. It's like the tiny mustard seed, the yeast in dough, the fig tree in Spring.

The people had trouble understanding. Where is this reign of God? Jesus tried to answer their questions with more parables.

Like the one in the Gospel today – let's call it "the parable of the merciful father".

A father who runs to meet his returning wayward son welcoming him with open arms and forgiveness, brushing aside the dishonour and disrespect the son has shown him, restoring his place in his home, giving him back his dignity – and celebrating his return with a great feast of life!

Is this what God is like? Is this what the reign of God means?

If so - wow! This is a true revolution. The reign of God is present wherever people show forgiveness and mercy.

John Lawson



Covid Vaccine Passes Mandatory at all Masses and Liturgies

New Zealand is still currently in **Red** under the Covid-19 Protection framework.

Until 11.59pm, 4th April - Everyone aged over 12 and 3 months must show a Covid MyVaccine pass when you come to a Mass or Liturgy and masks are mandatory. Social distancing is essential.

Until 11.59pm, 4th April under **Red** you will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive. This week our Masses **are still** limited to 100 people and you **will** need to book for weekend Masses and Word and Communion Liturgies.

To book your place please go to the Archdiocese website and register or click on the [link](#)
Please note bookings for weekend Masses open at **9.00am Wednesday** and close at **12pm Friday**.

If you are unable to attend Mass and you wish to receive Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office to discuss possible arrangements to receive. **Ph: (04) 478 7137**.

For more information on life under the Red Traffic Light Framework [click here](#).

Please note as we are in an ever changing situation, as and when we receive updates we will make sure all information is conveyed to parishioners.

If you are isolating and need support, you can call the COVID Welfare Phone Line on 0800 512 337. The helpline is open seven days a week.

When bad news weighs on us and we feel powerless before evil, we often ask ourselves: is it perhaps a punishment from God? Did He bring about a war or a pandemic to punish us for our sins? And why does the Lord not intervene?... Rather than blaming God, Jesus says we need to look inside ourselves: it is sin that produces death; our selfishness can tear apart relationships; our wrong and violent choices can unleash evil. At this point the Lord offers the true solution, and that is conversion: He says, "unless you repent you will all likewise perish". It is an urgent call, especially during this time of Lent. Let us welcome it with an open heart.

Pope Francis: [Angelus 20 March 2022](#)

Holy Week Timetable

	St Andrew's	St Benedict's	Ss Peter & Paul
Reconciliation	Tuesday, 5 th April 7.00pm		
Palm Sunday	Saturday, 9 th April 5.00pm - Mass	Sunday, 10 th April 9.00am - Mass	Sunday, 10 th April 10.30am - Mass
Holy Thursday		Thursday, 14 th April 7.00pm - Mass	Thursday, 14 th April 7.00pm - Mass
Good Friday	Friday, 15 th April 3.00pm - Liturgy	Friday, 15 th April 3.00pm - Liturgy	Friday, 15 th April 3.00pm - Liturgy
Easter Vigil		Saturday, 16 th April 8.00pm Mass	
Easter Sunday		Sunday, 17 th April 9.00am - Mass	Sunday, 17 th April 10.30am - Mass

INFORMATION on how to book for all Holy Week Masses to follow.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at the following Churches:

St Benedict's Church:

Every Wednesday at 7.00pm on
30th March and 6th April

St Andrew's Church:

Every Friday at 6.00pm on
25th March and 1st, 8th April.



Lenten Reconciliation

Tuesday, 5th April 7.00pm at St Andrew's Church

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.

Photos from the Youth Ministry Team's Prayer for Peace in Ukraine last Friday.

Everyone was invited to come up one by one and take home a small peace candle to pray for peace in Ukraine.



Left photo: L-R: Jared Caldeiro, James Tuck, Nicole Simson & Mihi Hough supporting Peace for Ukraine Liturgy Friday 18th at SS Peter and Pauls Church.

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of the Ukraine, for their country and their leader.
We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.
We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace in Ukraine.
And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.
Lord have mercy.

Amen



Sacramental Programme Update: Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation 2022:

Our full Sacramental Programme for our parish children will begin in Term II.

If you wish to register your Child for Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, then please advise the Parish Office of your child's details and which Sacrament they will be enrolling for and we will send you a Registration Form next week.

Office details, ph: 4787137 or email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz

If your child is of school age and would like to be Baptised this can also be arranged as part of the programme.

We are hoping that by Term II life will be more predictable as Covid peaks which will allow us to offer a wonderful programme to our children and families. Thanks for your patience in this matter.

For children/young people who made their First Communion and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation over the past two years or earlier, there will be Confirmation in the Parish on **August 6th or 7th**.

You will also be able to enrol for this on a separate form from the Parish Office.

Our other Confirmation dates will be advised next weekend.

Stations of the Cross - St Brigid's Lenten Art Project

St Brigid's School are undertaking a Lenten art project. Each class in school will participate in producing a piece of art for each individual Station. The school has invited our Parish to participate in this project with them.

They have requested help with the following 2 Stations:

- Jesus falls the second time;
- Jesus falls the third time.

For more information and if you are able to help at all, please contact the Parish Office **Ph: 04 478 7137** or email: **office@stfrancisohariu.nz**



Ss. Peter and Paul's - 100 years celebration

This year is 100 years since Ss. Peter and Paul's Johnsonville separated from Lower Hutt and became a parish in its own right.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Would you like to help plan the celebration.

Contact Pat Collier - tchpat.collier@gmail.com, ph: [04]4786230 or mobile 0212943960.

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 or you can register through our website by clicking on subscribe on the homepage.

Prayer for our Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu.

Loving God, as members of our Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu, we come before you in a spirit of love, prayer and thanksgiving.

We pray you bind us together in love. Whatever our age, cultural background and individual roles within our parish, may we be one together in Jesus. May we accept, affirm and support one another.

In your service we offer you our talents and gifts so as to build your Loving Presence amongst us. May our Parish be vibrant with your love and always a place of welcome

May your Holy Spirit anoint us, inspire us, and send us out into the community as witnesses to you and your love and teaching. May we have the courage and compassion to reach beyond our church to the peripheries to those who are most vulnerable and in need.

May your Holy Spirit draw others to you through us.

We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

St. Francis of Assisi pray for us, and guide us.



Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Upcoming Events/Notices

THANK YOU FROM Johnsonville Combined Churches Op Shop - Thank you so much for supporting the shops with volunteers, we really appreciate it, and on that note, we are down to 1 or 2 volunteers doing the clean up after Sale Day (held on the last Sat of the month). This clean up is done once a month on a Monday for 2 to 3 hours. If you are able to help at any stage please just let the Op Shop know. Many thanks.

NZ Catholic free digital issue

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/020aaf8c-8cb2-45cb-be32-6e89083cecec>

Lent Preparation

During this Lenten time, the National Liturgy Office is featuring a page of preparation for liturgies for each Sunday in Lent. Please click here for details: <https://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/>



"Who do you say I am?": Images of God, mental well-being and Pacific young women

Come and join us online as Therese Lautua talks about the significance of Christianity for the spiritual and mental wellbeing of young Christian, multi-ethnic Pacific women. She will take us through the different images of God and how these impact mental wellbeing. To register, please [click here](#).

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy Online Sessions (Evening):
Women in the Scriptures & Mythology
Part 1: Women of the Old Testament with Kieran Fenn fms.
Wednesday, 20 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Koha/Donation.

Part 2: Women in the Sistine Chapel with Dr Christopher Longhurst.
Friday, 29 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Koha/Donation.
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/women-in-the-scriptures-mythology/>
For more information and registration: www.studyjoy.nz



MASS INTENTIONS



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

Anniversaries: Marshal Henry Concessio

Prayers for the Sick: Myra Oh, Fr David Dowling, Rosemary Molloy, Graeme Gorton, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Tau So'oa, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell.

Please also remember in your prayers those that are supporting them.

Let us pray for all those in the Ukraine and their New Zealand families at this time. We pray for peace in our World. We also pray for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 26th March - Saturday 2nd April

St Peter & Paul's Church 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Sun: 10.30am - Mass
Mon: 9.00am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am - Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Friday: 6.00pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday **26th March:** 5pm Vigil Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday: 9.00am - Word & Communion Liturgy
Monday: 9.00am - Liturgy
Monday: 7.00pm - Meditation
Tuesday: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wednesday: 9.00am & Wednesday: 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday: 9.00am - Liturgy
Friday: Exposition 8.30am and Liturgy at 9.00am

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

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Phone: 04 478 7137

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

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

