



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

1st Sunday of Advent 28th November 2021 Year C

Readings: *Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2, Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

ST. ANDREW on an 'ADVENT- URE' with Jesus—November 30th 2021

The life of Andrew was not about a sentimental waiting for the Baby Jesus.

His focus as with ours, needs to be on the expectations and anticipation on the adult Christ, our universal Christ, who challenges us to empty ourselves, to lose ourselves, to surrender, to unclutter our lives so as to make room in our lives for his 'presence', rather than a 'present'.

Andrew was born in Bethsaida, a town in Galilee, upon the banks of the lake of Genesareth (Gennesaret).

He was the son of Jonas or John, a fisherman of that town, and brother to Simon Peter, but whether elder or younger the holy scriptures have not acquainted us.

They had their home in Capernaum, where Jesus lodged when he preached in that city. It is no small proof of the good inclinations of St. Andrew, that when St. John the Baptist began to preach penance and forgiveness in the desert, he was not content with going to hear him as others did, but became his disciple from what he heard, and copied his example.

He often returned home to his fishing trade. He was with Jesus when John the Baptist seeing Jesus pass by, heard John the Baptist say 'Behold the Lamb of God'.

So with Andrew and the apostles, in this our time, we too acknowledge the dignity of each human person. We too say, behold the lamb of God, present among us, in all our encounters.

Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful advent-ure. No one can face life in isolation.

Like the early communities of Christians, that Andrew was part of, we too need a community that supports and assists us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead at new vistas of new possibilities.

How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there.

Fr Pete



Pastoral Letter from the New Zealand Bishops

New Zealand Bishops have sent two letters regarding vaccination and how we might operate under the traffic light system when this commences. You can access these letters from the links below. There are 2 versions

Extended—[link](#)

Condensed—[link](#)

The Leadership Formation Team and Parish Liturgy Advisory Group are developing new procedures for Masses and Liturgies to manage the ongoing risk of COVID.

Covid vaccine passes required at all masses and liturgies from Friday 3 December

On Friday 3 December Wellington will move to either Orange or Red in the Covid Protection framework. **Everyone aged 12 and over must show a Covid MyVaccine pass when you come to a mass or liturgy.**

Orange: You will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive at the church. You won't need to book but you will need to wear a mask.

Red: You will need to show your Covid Vaccine pass when you arrive.

Masses will be limited to 100 people. You will need to book and must wear a mask.

Everyone 12 and over needs a pass. You can get a pass at <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-certificates/my-vaccine-pass/> If you don't have a computer phone 0800 222 478 — have your NHI number ready.

If you're not vaccinated there will be special masses somewhere in Wellington where you won't need a pass. These will be advertised when it's been decided where they will be.

Communal Reconciliation

Tuesday 7th Dec 7.00p.m St. Andrew's Church Newlands

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 more closely at our weaknesses and to focus on ways we can grow and improve for the benefit of all those around us. 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.

An initiative of the Parish Liturgy Advisory Group—PLAG

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

This is one of the ceremonies available to us as members of the Catholic Church.

It has been celebrated in our churches of St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu during the week for many years.

The liturgy gathers the people in prayer, reflects on the readings of the day, gives thanksgiving, prepares for receiving communion, communion is received and prayers offered before the sending rite.

During this time of pandemic restrictions we are going to celebrate this liturgy in our parish on a Sunday evening at 6.00p.m

Many of you are unable to attend mass as we are limited in numbers so this liturgy is an opportunity to gather as a community, reflect on the day's readings and be nourished by communion.

These Sunday night liturgies will alternate between Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Benedict's churches.

Liturgy times : **Ss. Peter and Paul Church 6.00 pm, Sunday 28th November, St Benedict's Church 6.00pm, Sunday 5th December.**

This liturgy numbers will be limited during current level 2 Covid restrictions.

Bookings are essential.

You may book for both Ss Peter and Paul and St. Benedict's

By emailing Tina Araza [before 5.00p.m. Fridays] - tmaraza.spp@gmail.com

Or phone or text [before 5.00p.m Fridays]

Wendy Cleaver, Ph: 2322008, Mobile: 0272696209

Property Review Update



St Francis of Assisi Property Review

The LFT has decided to continue the discernment by hosting several casual conversations with Parishioners to discuss further the future of our parish.

Sunday 28 November 11:30-12:30pm St Peter and Paul's

Tuesday 30 November 7-8pm St Benedict's

Saturday 4 December 6-7pm St Andrews

Sunday 5 December 10-11am St Benedict's

Additional meetings will be advertised next week.

Please come along to any of the conversations to pray, reflect and share.

All Welcome.

More details about the property review can be found on the parish website here: <http://stfrancisohariu.nz/updates/building-and-property-review/>

St Brigid's Reconciliation

The year 4 had their reconciliation in Room 5 with Team 3. It went well and we were calm. People knew it was a time to get close to God. I think that is because Father Pete made us laugh and then made us calm. Pat did an awesome job with the reconciliation and prepared the Power Point so that people were in the moment

Angelina

We had a great time with Father Pete and Pat when we were doing reconciliation. Everything went well, and we loved the songs. Something we really enjoyed was getting sprayed with Holy Water!

We're so thankful that Pat organised this for us! **Mia & Ia**



Synod Facilitators

Pope Francis and Cardinal John have invited us to participate in the 2021 Synod.

"There is no need to create another church, but to create a different church ..." Pope Francis 9 October 2021

" I want you to be involved in this Synod process. Your baptism calls you and entitles you to be involved.... I am looking forward very much to your involvement in imagining a different future for the Church. Please use this opportunity, it is essential that we do so. This Synod sets out to change the fact that most people of God have been passive spectators for years. You can help to change that. Please take up the invitation to be involved in this Synod process" Cardinal John Dew

We will hold some parish meetings in 2022 to assist us reflecting, sharing and responding to the questions of the Synod.

To do this we are inviting parishioners who are prepared to assist facilitating these meetings to attend a briefing session with staff from the Archdiocese **(Date to be confirmed)**. Please contact the parish office if you can help.

Further information is available here:

<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/>

Advent is a special time in our Catholic faith as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is a time of Reflection, Waiting, Praying and wondering.

On **Sunday December 5th and Sunday December 19th** there will be two additional Liturgies at **5pm** at SS Peter and Paul Johnsonville, organised by the Youth Ministry Team and Challenge 2000. These are not the usual Sunday Masses. Instead there will be input and times of personal and community prayer. The Liturgies will also include a space for children to create Advent art.

On December 5th we will focus on John the Baptist. What he said to the people of his time and what he says to us today.

On December 19th we will focus on Mary, her faithfulness and her passion for bringing Jesus into the world. And what she has to say to each one of us.

If you would like to have any further information about these Liturgies or be involved in some way please call

Kitty 021491459 or Sio 02108160396.

Special guidelines may apply relating to Covid. Watch this space over the next few weeks!



St Benedict's Christmas Hamper Mass

We will be holding the Hamper Mass on **Sunday 12th December at 9am.**

Many thanks to all those who have chosen families to receive a Christmas Hamper. There are just 2 families left on the tree, it would be wonderful if they could be 'adopted' this Sunday. Don't forget to leave your name and contact details so that we know who is looking after which family!

The Hamper Mass itself may have to be organised slightly differently this year because of Covid issues, but the need for the hampers remains the same.

We will advise arrangements for the Mass closer to Dec 12th. Any queries or for more information, please ring **Jo Mackenzie on ph: 021 990 918**

Christmas Hampers 2021

St Vincent de Paul plans to distribute hampers of sweet treats to families in need at Christmas.

With generous help from parishioners we are usually able to provide hampers to over 40 families. Demand is similar in 2021.

We plan to pack hampers on 12th December and will be grateful for any packaged treats received by **Sunday 5th December.**

Please add to the basket at St Peter and Paul's.

Christmas Holiday Programme for children aged 5-12:

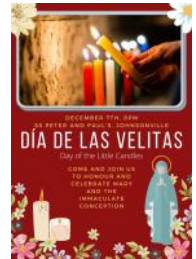
Monday December 20th December from 10am-3pm in the Church Hall at SS Peter and Pauls, Johnsonville.

Organised by the Youth Ministry Team and parish volunteers: come along and make Christmas Cards, act out the Christmas story, paint, sing, make, cook. It will be a wonderful time together.

Please register by calling or email: Sio on pelasio@challenge2000.org.nz / 02108160396, or email the Parish Office. Numbers limited to 30.

Please bring your own lunch. Cost \$5.00 per child or by donation
Come along and have fun!

On the **7th of December**, Sindy Rodrigues and the Youth Ministry Team of Challenge 2000 will be holding Día de las Velitas (Day of the Little Candles). This is a tradition held in Colombia, in which we will be lighting small candles in celebration and honour of Mother Mary and the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Brophy SM will be helping to lead the liturgy. This will be at **8PM at SS Peter and Paul's Church in Johnsonville**. Todos son bienvenidos! See you there! Due to the 100 person limitation, if interested please call/text Sio at 02108160396. For more information about the tradition itself, please contact Sindy on 0225137914.



Catholic Women's League

CWL has committed to providing a Christmas Hamper for a family in need and have always collected items for this hamper at our Christmas Social, Under the circumstances we would be most grateful if you could leave your gift in the basket we will have at the church over the next few weeks. Alternatively you can contact any committee member and we will arrange collection. The **Hamper Mass is on the 12th December - 9am Mass**.

With many thanks. Any enquiries to **Margaret Dunne. phone 478 6348**

St Benedict's School Fundraiser

St Benedict's School has kicked off their last big fundraiser for the year -**Christmas Honey!** We have delicious 500gm pots of NZ Multiflora honey with our very own St Benedict's Christmas label. These make great Christmas presents, or load up the pantry for your own family. These are selling for **\$15 per jar** and all profits are going to St Benedict's School and the completion of our new playground.

If anyone would like to order please email: Kaye at kayeherrick@gmail.com by **December 1st** to confirm

payment and delivery details. Thanks to all the Parish for their support.



Upcoming Events/Notices

The grounds at St Benedict's need a tidy up.

A working bee for a few hours will be held on a weekday or weekend based on availability of volunteers.

Please contact **John Lawson** or **Thomas Davis** if you are available to help.

Are you recently retired and looking for a bit of work?

If so, would you be interested in working 7 hours a week at St Brigid's School doing some caretaking & grounds jobs? We'd love to hear from you – please contact **Lynne or Linda at the school on Ph 478 6516.**



FOOD FOR FAITH offers brief daily reflections for Advent. Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz.

Catholic Responses to the End-of-Life Choice Act— (An Online Event)

With the End-of-Life Choice Act coming into effect last 07 November and NZCBC issuing guidelines for ministering with people contemplating assisted dying, we are running an online event on **Wednesday 01 December 6:00-7:00pm** presented by Dr John Kleinsman (Director of the Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics) and Rev Dr Mervyn Duffy (CTC Degree Programme Head). We would like to invite you to participate and also request that you invite people especially those who are ministering to the sick. Please do share it far and wide. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUud->

Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting

Friday, 3rd December 6.00pm –6.30pm, St Andrew's Chapel

Zoom Meeting: Sunday 5th December 3.00pm

Meeting ID: 799 6918 9260

Passcode: hra2h3

Mass for Alternative Thinkers

All being well, we will gather at **4pm on Sunday 28th November**, in the chapel at Challenge, 1 Wanaka Street. Eddie Condra will lead us in prayer.

Columban Calendar 2022

We have received the 2022 Columban Calendars for next year. They are available for purchase in the foyer at a cost of **\$12 per calendar**. In the event you cannot attend Mass and wish to purchase one, please contact the Parish Office;

ph: (04) 4787137, email: office@stfrancisochariu.nz.

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Dennis Hommel, Patricia Davidson

Anniversaries: Joseph & Apolonia D'Souza, Angeline D'Souza, Olga D'Souza Santaninho Rodrigues, Oswald D'Lima

Prayers for the Sick— Ted Ramsbottom, Graeme Gorton, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Dianne Greene (Mother of Steven Greene), Tau So'oa (father of Mel Aspinall), Monsignor John Carde, Fr Colin Durning, Fr Frank McGuire, Fr Peter O'Connell.

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

We pray for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19. We also pray for Auckland and all those working to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 28th November - 4th December

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

Sun: Mass 10.30am
Sun: Liturgy with
Communion 6.00pm
Mon: 9am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 11am Mass (No Cup
of Tea)
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sunday Mass 9.00am
Monday 9.00 Liturgy
Monday 7.00 Meditation
Tuesday 9.15 Liturgy
Wednesday 9.00 Liturgy
Thursday 9.00 Liturgy
Friday Exposition 8.30 Liturgy
at 9.00
Saturday 9.00 Liturgy

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

