



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

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

Fourth Week Ordinary Time, 29th January 2023, Year A
Readings: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12



Dear People of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

Happy New Year - and Welcome to 2023!

We hope that you have had a safe, invigorating and restful break over the holiday period. And that as you read this first Newsletter for 2023, you are feeling refreshed, hopeful and strong. It is going to be a big year!

The Spirit knows the challenges we face, our weaknesses and our strengths, our sorrows and our joys - we have no need to be afraid or disillusioned - the Spirit is with us, the Spirit is amongst us!

The Community of Believers

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."
Acts 2 42-47

We have lots of reasons to be positive and excited. Whilst we close two of our churches over the weekend of 11/12 Feb, we will then gather as one worshipping community in our new refurbished parish church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, 37 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville on
Sunday, 19 February

Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi
As an old net withers another is remade

Let's all take an active part in this occasion – it is an opportunity for a new start. Old friends and fellow parishioners gather – new friendships and contacts are formed. Good wine is poured into new wineskins!

Contd...

Parish Information

It will be a time of gathering and celebration from the opening Processional hymn to the grace of thanksgiving after our community lunch. Let's all play a part: we need proclaimers, eucharistic ministers, florists, singers, dancers, potato peelers, bread butterers, musicians, sacristans, altar servers, ushers, car park attendants, spit roasters, carvers, tea makers, baristas, dishwashers, waiters – people of generosity, goodwill, hope and joy.

So buckle up, hang on – it's going to be a Heaven of a ride!

If you are up for this ride please contact any one of the following people:

John Lawson – Hospitality contact. Mob no: 021 616 031

Wendy Cleaver – Liturgy contact. Mob no: 027 269 6209

Colleen Campbell - Music contact. Mob no: 022 312 9037

Paul Whitehouse - Committee chair. Mob no: 027 422 6625

John Lawson

Remodelling of the Johnsonville Site as a Transitional Parish Church Update

Work is progressing on the refurbishment of St Peter and Paul's Church to become the St Francis of Assisi Parish Church.

We are removing the pews which are fixed to the floor. These will be replaced with a mix of pews and single cushioned seats which gives us flexibility to change the configuration of the seating area. While the seats and pews will be arranged differently for the opening Mass, if feedback from parishioners is that they would like to try a different seating configuration after a few months we can do that.

The audio and video systems are being upgraded to new technology so we can do things differently and also to ensure everyone can see and follow the words for the Mass or songs including people in the hall.

Some painting is being done and carpet is being replaced or cleaned.

We have considered feedback from parishioners about what they would like in the transitional church from all three churches. Some of these things will be there for the opening, others will come later as we only have one week from closing St Benedict's and St Andrews to the opening of St Francis of Assisi Parish Church.

We hope the changes will provide a rich and positive experience for our people as we gather to worship as one community on 19 February.

We look forward to seeing you all at our opening Mass, on
Sunday, 19th February - 11am.

Parish Information

Closing Ceremonies for St Andrew's and St Benedict's

The Churches of St Andrew and St Benedict will both close on the weekend of 11/12 February. Both communities have been planning how to mark these sad events.

St Andrew's Church - 11th February, 5pm - Closing Mass

There will be hospitality afterwards so please bring some food to share. We would be grateful if you could spread the word to past parishioners as their stories and reminiscences will be an important part of our evening together.

Kia ora.

St Benedict's Church

31st January, 9.15am - 56th anniversary of St Benedict's Church. See separate notice for more details below.

11th February, 7pm - Reminiscences.

Benediction followed by a cup of tea. Silent vigil until midnight.

Contact John Lawson jlawsonnz@gmail.com to book a slot to reminisce or keep vigil.

12th February, 9am - Closing Mass. Please bring a plate of finger-food to share at morning tea.

Saint Benedict's Church, Khandallah - Fifty-Eight Years On.

The Anniversary of the Opening and Blessing of Saint Benedict's Church, Khandallah, will be marked in a small way at the usual 9.15am Liturgy on Tuesday 31 January 2023. All welcome

Weekend Mass Schedule from 25/26 February

The upcoming move to a single church means we need to adjust the weekend Mass schedule from 25/26 February onwards.

LFT's objectives are, as much as possible, to ensure that faith community relationships are maintained and the worshipping needs of parishioners continue to be met.

We are currently in dialogue with some of the ministries around the logistics of certain Mass times and will be in position next week to communicate more widely on a finalised schedule. Many thanks.

Our Family Friendly Church

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these". (Mark, 10: 13-14).



One of the actions in our Parish Pastoral Plan is to provide a child friendly space in the church (building) for young families.

In short, to ensure a family friendly church.

What might a family friendly church look like?:

- Most importantly we will welcome families to Sunday Mass.
- We will do our best to make families feel comfortable at Sunday Mass.
- Children are children, so while we teach them to grow into adult worshippers, we accept that they might do child type things. We will be patient with them when they do that.
- The Sunday Mass is the key time that the Catholic community gathers. Therefore, we need to accept that there might be a level of noise as people and families greet each other. This is not a quiet contemplative time. If you are someone who likes to prepare for Mass with quiet contemplation, perhaps set time aside at home before you come to the church.
- At the same time, we will be providing a carpeted area in the hall space at the church for families who do like to take their children to one side, or feel the need to let them do some activity for a bit.
- This 12 square meter of carpet will have books and colouring type activities. Toys present a hygiene challenge in the current age, so we won't supply any at this stage.
- *"Liturgy begins in the carpark"* – we will greet and welcome each other, including children and young people, with a smile.

Our Family Friendly Church contd...

Children, young people and families, are not the “future of the Church”, they are already an important part of the Church! We want them to feel welcome to join in the Sunday Mass.

How will we know when we are a family friendly church? When people say: *“Go to St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, they really welcome families there – they really understand what it’s like to have young children.”*

As we settle into our parish church at Johnsonville, we will be looking to introduce other family friendly initiatives.

Joe Green



Ss Peter & Paul Closing Mass - 8th January 2023

The closure of Ss Peter & Paul for refurbishment was a truly moving experience for the parishioners.

In actual fact it was simplicity with class.

Thanks you to all those that made this closure just easy, non stressful and serene.

We look forward to welcoming you to our refurbished church on 19th February at 11am.



Ss Peter & Paul Church Pews

If any one would like a pew from Ss Peter & Paul's Church, they are being removed from the church and will be available. A small koha would be appreciated.

If you would like to enquire about this, please contact the Parish Office, ph: 04 478 7137 or email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz



Parish Information

St Benedict's: Calling Former Choir Members and any interested Parishioners

You are invited to join in leading the singing of a motet at our final Mass on Sunday, 12th February at 9am.

Please contact Judith, ph: 021 203 1144, if you would like to sing with us.

Refugee and Migrant Support Update

As we begin 2023, this is a heartfelt thank-you for the tremendous outpouring of goods and support from parishioners and community members that enabled us to reach out to families and people over Christmas.

We have been able to befriend newcomers, furnish homes with beautiful household equipment, help families with babies and young children, hold English conversation evenings for those wanting to improve their English, assist with material goods, and offer friendship and solidarity.

Thanks to the ADW Tindall Trust and Caritas Pro Vitae Gradu Trust, our work can continue this year.

Lent

This Lent our parish outreach group will be offering Lenten reflection groups focussing on how each of us can be the light of the world in our communities.

For more information contact Jo-Anne Carley, Phone: 022 300 7413,

Lenten Reflection Group

During Lent, there will be a weekly Lenten Reflection Group, every Friday at 10.30am. This will be held at Pat Collier's house. This will begin on 24th February.

If you would like to join this group, please register with the office, email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz.

Malvina Major - Lenten Group

Those at Malvina Major who are interested in joining a Lenten reflection, please contact Judith Shroff - ph: 021 203 1144

Other Events/Notices

Greetings from Palestine: Brother Peter Bray speaking in Wellington

Taranaki's Br Peter Bray has lived in in the Holy Land for 15 years as Chancellor of Bethlehem University, the first registered university in the occupied West Bank of Palestine.

At the invitation of the NZ Bishops Conference, he will speak on the realities of life and education in that context at:

St Thomas More Church,
30 Worcester Rd, Wilton, Wellington,
6.30pm, Monday, 30 January 2023.



NZ Catholic Bishops Conference

The bishops and congregational leaders of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa NZ have issued a statement of commitments adopted in response to the continuing work of the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care.

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

Valentine's Day Mass

Cardinal John Dew will celebrate Mass on, Tuesday, 14th February 2023 at 6.30pm, St Joseph's Church, Mount Victoria (152 Brougham St). Mass will be followed by refreshments.

Waitangi Day Mass

Nau mai, haere mai! The customary Waitangi Day Mass to pray for this land and all who dwell here under the guardianship of the Treaty will be celebrated on **Monday, 6th February, 9am** at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott St, Wellington.

This Mass combines the choirs of St Mary of the Angels and Te Ngākau Tapu parish for Māori in Porirua. Prayers will be primarily be in Māori, English and Latin along with various other languages.

Celebrant: Cardinal John Dew. Please bring a plate of food to share for morning tea. Enquiries to office.manager@smoa.org.nz; (04) 473 8074.

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Recently Deceased: Ancella Mary Jesuthasan

Anniversaries: Betty McCafferty, Tom O'Donnell, Jack Odell, Mathew Metua Gale.

Prayers for the Sick: Jessie Hensen, Jocelyn Whitehouse, Diana Helm, Robyn Clarke, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Margaret Blight, Fr Maurice Carmody, Penelope Corich, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Tau So'oa, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Peter O'Connell, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Kevin Purcell, Joe Godinet.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 28th January - Sunday 5th February

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Sat: 28th January - 5pm
Vigil Mass

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Sun: 9.00am - Mass
Mon: 9.00am - Liturgy
Mon: 7.00pm - Meditation
Tues: 9.15am - Liturgy
Wed: 9.00am - Liturgy
Thurs: 9.00am - Liturgy
Fri: Exposition 8.30am and
Liturgy at 9.00am
Sun: 9.00am - Mass

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

CURRENTLY CLOSED
FOR REFURBISHMENT

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

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

