



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter 30th April 2023, Year A
Readings:: Acts 2:14, 36-41, Peter 2:20-25, John 10:1-10

Reflection

In his sermon on Easter Sunday, Fr Pete spoke of the need for us all to leave our empty tombs behind and push out into the future. After all Jesus left HIS tomb behind so that He could get on with the business of saving us all. And if Jesus can leave his tomb, then we can leave ours.

Not so easy as it sounds: how do we leave our empty tombs? Indeed, how do we even know what our tombs are. And it's awfully hard changing direction even if it's only a very slight change of direction.

I really can't help with your empty tombs but I can make some suggestions: who remembers at school examining their conscience? That good time to quietly have a look at your spiritual lives – an examen that's carried out quietly in the silence of your mind, a chance to reflect on the good and bad of our lives. Well and good, that's probably the easiest bits of the new direction.

The early apostles had the risen Jesus to give them faith and hope and a guiding hand into their futures, but they also had each other. And they had their faith and as Jesus said to Thomas "Blessed are those who have not seen and still believe". Well, YOU have faith: if you didn't then you wouldn't be here today – your very presence is a bright shining example of your faith. And the apostles had each other; and we have each other. The readings this Fourth Sunday are heavy on being shepherds. We hear from the readings how much we can depend on Jesus to be there and He has promised that He will always be there for us: He is our guiding light in life. If we reach out to Jesus for assistance in our spiritual lives, He will always help us.

But maybe one of the more difficult paths to follow might be a suggestion made by Pope Francis recently:

"There are many who still seek religious security rather than the living and true God, focusing on rituals and precepts instead of embracing God's love with their whole being. Those who seem to be afraid to make

Parish Information

progress and who regress because they feel more secure - they seek the security of God and not the God of our security. Like the Galatians they should return to what is essential – God"

Well, I'm going to say that description fits me reasonably well so one of the empty tombs that I need to leave behind is that reliance on the security of the rituals and precepts. Rituals and precepts are like money – it's not what you have but what you do with what you have.

Do you have an empty tomb that you can leave behind?

PS – Actually Galatians is quite a good read – and it's short as well – only 6 chapters.

Tony de Joux



Good Shepherd Sunday

Following one's vocation is a response from within to the needs outside us. A vocation meets the human needs of the world with a motivation from within. We care for our children and grandchildren not just because they are sick or insecure, but because we love them.

This love will move us out to help them in various situations.

We find a call to be 'people for others' because our heart teaches us with Jesus that we are all brothers and sisters, and that God calls each one of us to be that face of God within our lives, and needs our help to do so.

This is the Sunday we all pray that our particular vocation in life may become clear and may become stronger.

A Call for All

God calls each of us to love God and love our neighbour. This is the first Christian calling; we then find the best way for each of us with our own particular set of gifts, talents and even our own vulnerabilities to live out that call to love.

Pete Roe

Article

Pope Francis is warning against the self referential attitude of some lay ministers who become 'puffed up' by their Ministry. To read this article, please [click here](#).

Parish Information

Tax Receipts / New Envelopes

We are currently finalising parishioners tax receipts for year end 31st March 2023.

For those who give by Automatic Payment, we will email you through your tax receipt. If we do not have an email address for you, this will be printed off and ready for collection in the Church foyer from next week.

For those who give by envelope, your new envelopes will be available to collect from this weekend in the church foyer. Your tax receipts will be available from next week.

If you have any queries, please contact the **Parish Office, ph: 04 4787137.**

The Parish would like to thank you for your continued support.

First Friday Morning Tea

Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy morning tea in the Parish Hall following Exposition at 8.30am and the 9.00am Liturgy on Friday, 5th May.

Hospitality will be arranged by Margie Crook and Anne Dale. All welcome.

Children's Liturgy

This will recommence this **Sunday 30th April at 10.00am Mass.**

At the beginning of mass the leaders will be commissioned and then they will go with the children to their session.

The sessions will be held in the meeting room [next to the sacristy] and also in "Little Pa" [the house next to the church.] Please pray for the leaders of this ministry.

Greetings all from the Youth Ministry Team at Challenge 2000

Next Tuesday, 2nd May, 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 2023 is underway.

Registration brochures are now available in the church foyers, from the Parish Office and on our website.

Please [click here](#).

This programme offers preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion / Eucharist and Confirmation. The Programme will begin with Reconciliation.

Next Session - (For those that did not attend the day programme)

Sunday 30th April - 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Sunday, 7th May - 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Everyone will then need to attend a final meeting and practice on:

Friday, 12th May, 4.30pm - 6.30pm

The Reconciliation Service will be on - **Sunday, 14th May, 4.00pm**

All sessions will be held at: St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish,
37 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville.

Bookings can be made through the Parish Office. If you have any queries, you can contact Kitty on 021 491 459 or the Parish Office, (04) 478 7137.

"SACRED AND SECULAR": AN ORGAN RECITAL: May 13, 3pm

David Dobson will present an organ recital at our Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, on the above date.

The recital will be about an hour long. The concert is free, but there will be an opportunity to contribute towards a Cyclone Relief Fund. All funds raised by your generous contributions will go towards this cause.

The recital, of six or seven pieces in different styles, will allow you to hear sounds of the organ from the quietest to the most triumphant and music from several different nations and eras.





ANZAC Day Service

An ANZAC Day Community Service was arranged by Challenge 2000 and the Youth Ministry team last Tuesday.

The mixture of art, drama, music, prayer, reflection and poems was wonderful and captured the memories, feelings and hopes of the ANZAC spirit.

A special thanks to nurse Phoebe Caldeiro who was both our pianist and a World War One nurse and to the three generations of the Henty and Bradshaw families.

Thank you also to Sister Cyprian and Rosina who gave such lovely feedback to the team. To our drama children, Elizabeth Kennedy who provided the wreath and Helen Cross who made that wonderful flower arrangement for our altar. Thank you.

Also to Sophia from the Newlands Brownie Troop who laid their wreath.



I found the ANZAC service so moving and it gave me goose bumps even though I knew what had been arranged.

Thank you also to everyone who came, it was very special.

Ana and Leta



Other Events/Notices

Living Liturgically – Bringing the Liturgical Year to Life In The Rhythm Of The Parish."

This interactive workshop led by Fr Patrick Bridgman is for everyone involved or interested in Liturgy.

Venue: St Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Johnsonville.

Time: **Saturday 20th May, 10.00am-12 midday.**

Tea and coffee available from 9.30am. To register please email:
Christine at c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz

O'Shea Shield 2023

The annual O'Shea Shield competition will be held next weekend, **May 6th and 7th, at St Mary's College, Guildford Tce, Thorndon.**

This prestigious competition involves eight events, including debating, public speaking, religious drama, scripture reading and religious questions, and involves approximately 280 secondary school students from the 17 Catholic secondary schools in the Wellington and Palmerston North Archdioceses.

The programme and information for the weekend can be found at <https://www.stmw.school.nz/Quick-Links/oshea-shield-2023-homepage-1>

Everyone is most welcome to attend any of the events, and, most particularly, the Mass and Prize Giving, which will take place in St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Hill Street, at **12.45pm on Sunday, May 7th.**

You are Invited

We would like to invite all Teenagers and Young Adults to our second **Young Church Mass of 2023**, hosted by Life Teen Hutt Valley.

This is an occasion for all teenagers and young adults to come together as Young Catholics, to have fun, share in fellowship and celebrate Mass.

Join us at 5.30pm on **Sunday 21st May** at Sacred Heart Church, Petone

For more info, check out our social media **@adwyoungchurch**

Other Events/Notices

XLT - XLT is back in 2023! Come and join us for a night of Worship and Adoration on **Friday 12th May** at 7pm at St Anne's, Newtown.

Open to all teenagers and young adults, so invite your friends or bring your whole youth group.

And save the dates for the rest of the year so you don't miss out!
12th May, 9th June, 7th July, 11th August, 8th September, 6th October, 10th November. And follow us on Instagram @xltwellington

Family Pilgrimage with Mary on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

Join the Family Pilgrimage with Mary on 13 May (Sat.), the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima to pray for the needs of families.

The pilgrimage starts with Mass at 8:30 am at the Sacred Heart Cathedral and ends with a picnic at Hato Mere St Mary's Parish, Otaki.

For more details, email info@marriageandfamily.org.nz or go to www.marriageandfamily.org.nz.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Mary in the Scriptures with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 19/26 June & 03/10 July, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Free. Donation /Koha welcome.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/04/25/mary-in-the-scriptures/>

YouTube recordings

Muffin Talk radio programmes are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

TAIZÉ

Inspired by communities in France, Taizé incorporates music and chanting into a restful and reflective practise.

Join our Sisters for a Taize session in our chapel. Next Friday 5 May, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Chapel of Our Lady's Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay, Wellington.

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased: Anneke Schijns, Elva Carley, Patrick Flaherty, Sandra Fuller (nee Downey), Thelma Mendiola

Anniversaries: Jamie Estipona, Salvacion Estipona, Mary Taylor

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

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 29th April - Friday 5th May

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.

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, 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

