



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

Easter Sunday 31st March 2024, Year B

Readings:: Acts 10:34,37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9

Mary's Easter Monday Letter

Dear Son,

When you ran into the yard, I didn't know whether to hug you or smack you. I was exhausted after the heartbreaking week.

It began well. Crowds supporting you, welcoming you as their leader. Cheering and clapping. Then sharing that special, strange meal, when you held up bread and wine, saying: "eat and drink this after I've gone and always remember me".

You, our friend and leader knelt down servant - like, to wash feet – mine included! No, no stop you can't, we shouted embarrassed and shocked. You said to us and Peter "well if you don't let me, you've missed the whole point of my life and you can't be with me – friendship and my succession plan is over – understand please, **you must do what I do!**" Peter energetically responded: "okay then Lord, wash all of me"! It was all very, very intense. Taking my hand then, you whispered that you needed alone time, to pray and gain strength for the rest of the week.

Tired I went home and I regretted that the next day when I saw you betrayed, captured, tortured and mocked. Covered in blood with the people you had helped screaming "crucify him."

The self-centred, power hungry rulers worked hard to get rid of you because they wanted everything to remain the same and you threatened their worlds.

The rest is a blur. I remember standing (with John's help) beneath your cross ,weeping until I had no tears left.

Contd.....



Parish Information

I knew then what Simeon meant when I took you to the temple when you were little, when he told me a sword would pierce my heart.

Your friends stuck together that night – scared, afraid and traumatised. Our shared dreams and plans for a city, country of peace, justice, love, and hope shattered in pieces like one of my little clay pots that you dried so often.

Then miraculously here you were alive in our yard, straight from the tomb. Smiling and calling my name. What absolute JOY, welled up inside me. And when you left me to visit the others I sat to write you this note.

So son I'm off to Ephesus with John soon. I want you to know that I am so proud of you and grateful that you showed us and humanity, that love can overcome hate, peace can overcome conflict, healing can transform pain, hope overturns fear, forgiveness sets everyone free and light will extinguish all darkness. I will always carry you inside me and I remain your first disciple.

And my hope and prayer is that all who bear your name through the generations ,follow your example and have the courage and grace to do what you did, love as you loved and serve as you served.

Love you always
Mum.

P.S. in 2024 I wish all your friends and disciples a Happy Easter.

Kitty McKinley

Holy Week Timetable

Holy Thursday - 28th March

7.00pm Mass

Good Friday - 29th March

10.00am Stations of the Cross

11.00am Ecumenical Walk - starting at Johnsonville Uniting Church

3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord

Easter Vigil - 30th March

7.00pm Mass

Easter Sunday - 31st March

10.00am Mass

Parish Information

Parking

Please remember the school grounds are open for Sunday Mass parking, from **9.00am –12.00pm**. Please make sure you have your car out of the school grounds by 12.00pm as the gates will be closed.

Can you also be mindful when parking in the church carpark that you don't block the driveway or other cars. We understand this weekend will be particularly busy, but if you can be considerate and share kindness in the spirit of the season, this would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Easter Dues

During this time, if you do have Easter planned giving envelopes they can be placed in the baskets at any Mass. If you don't and would like to make a contribution, you can place an envelope in the baskets, but please mark Easter Dues on this, or if you are paying by automatic payment, just reference Easter Dues in the payment field.

On behalf of the Parish team, we would like to wish you a blessed and safe Easter.

St Brigid's School - Te Reo Course

St Brigid's School is very fortunate to have the opportunity for staff, school and Parish whānau to participate in te reo Māori classes next term.

This is a 20 week **free** course that will be held Monday evenings at school. Anyone is welcome to join us from the St Brigid's community!

What: Kāuru's takitini [Level 2 te reo Māori course](#) for te Kura o Hato Pirihiti (St Brigid's School)

When: Monday nights 5.30 - 7.30pm, starting 29th April 2024 (Week 1 Term 2)

Where: Room 12 Classroom at St Brigid's

Duration: 20 weeks

NB: There is **no** cost to this course as it is funded by the Ministry of Education.

If you have any questions or would like the details of how to register, please contact Fiona D'Souza - fionad@stbrigids.school.nz

Parish Information

Iftar Meal

On Wednesday, 3 April, an Iftar meal will be taking place in the Church hall.

Iftar is the name of each evening meal during Ramadan when Muslims break their fast for the day. The meal is being hosted by Ilknur and Yusuf Gusel, who with the support of the Pearl of the Islands Foundation, are generously reaching out to the parish in a gesture of inter-faith dialogue and hospitality.

If you would like to participate, please contact Jo-Anne Carley,
Phone: 022 300 7413 or email: jo-anne@stfrancisohariu.nz

Alpha

Come along to our PROMO NIGHT on **Tuesday, 7th May at 7.00pm** in the Church Hall, St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish, 37 Dr Taylor Tce.



To register please email: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

Sacramental Programme 2024

The enrolment process for the 2024 Parish Sacramental Programme has opened.

For further information please [click here](#). Or alternatively, email: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

NOTE:

There will be parent / caregiver meeting for all those who have children enrolled in the programme. It is very important a representative from every family attends this meeting, as this will be an information evening about the programme, dates and content.

This will be held on **Wednesday, 1st May, 7.00pm – 8.30pm** in the Parish Church.

Sacramental Dates:

Confirmation Date - **18th August**

First Communion - **Weekend of 21st / 22nd September**



Holy Week



Holy Thursday (sometimes referred to as Maundy Thursday after the Latin mandatum or command to love one another, is a day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus.

In some traditions, there is the washing of the feet of various members of the community to recall a gesture of Christ at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. This is a sign of the need to do more to love one another and to serve all people, especially the poor.



Good Friday is a solemn day on which Christians recall the death of Jesus and its promise of hope and new life. In some traditions a wooden cross is set up and people spend time meditating before it.

Other people make the Stations of the Cross a devotion that recalls the journey of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to Calvary where he was crucified. (In Jerusalem the place of Christ's death and resurrection is commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

Many Christians keep this devotion but also see in the suffering of Jesus a reminder to be more concerned for the suffering of people in today's world. For many Christians, this day is also a day of fasting and penance.



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. While our society puts a major emphasis on Christmas, no other day is traditionally as sacred for the Christian community as Easter. This is the day Christians commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

In some traditions, the services begin the night before with the lighting of a new fire and the blessing of a large Easter candle. Water is blessed and many are baptized. But for all Christians, this is a day to renew one's faith.

In the Catholic Church, there is a sprinkling of all people with the newly blessed Easter water as a sign of renewal of our baptismal commitment. In many Protestant communities, Easter is celebrated at a sunrise service early on Easter morning. Easter usually ends with festive celebrations with special foods and Easter delicacies.

Parish Information

Newlands Passionist Group - Housie Night

Saturday, 18th May at 6.30pm. At the Johnsonville Community Centre. Entry \$15.00 per person / 3 games / Children FREE.

Proceeds to Wellington Free Ambulance and Ohariu Parish Refugee Fund.

For more information please contact:

Kerry - 027 311 6618,

Kai Mei - 022 093 2652

Nirmala - 021 108 2074

Stephanie - 021 189 3441

From Maintenance to Mission - Getting the Balance Right!

Divine Renovation (DR) is a Catholic organisation focused on parish renewal. Fr James Mallon, DR's founder, introduced DR to NZ in 2018.

The Archdiocese is delighted to welcome Mr Dan O'Rourke (D.R's current president) to Wellington for an evening specifically focussed on strategies for renewal in our parishes. Parish Pastoral Council members and everyone interested in parish leadership are warmly invited to join us for a thought-provoking evening of inspiration as we ponder where to for our parishes.

Date: Thursday, 18th April - 6:30pm (Cup of tea)
Session begins at 7.00pm- 9.00pm

Venue: St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church, Johnsonville, Wellington

[Click here for a one-minute intro to Divine Renovation](#)

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Lucienne, email: l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz

Liturgy Workshops

Fr Patrick Bridgman, Liturgy Advisor, will present 4 workshops centered on The Mass. The first of these workshops will be held in our Church, as follows:

What do we believe?

10.00am - 12.00pm on Saturday, 20th April.

For further workshops and information, please [click here](#).

Parish Information

Prayer Chain

Is someone you know in need of prayer because of health, poverty, hunger or any special need?

Email Katharina Dobson - dobsonkatharina@gmail.com or ph: 027 327 3609 or (04) 976 9191.

Your request will be passed on to the Prayer Chain.

Would you like to join the Prayer Chain and add your voice to ours? Call or email Katharina!



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.



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.**

MASS INTENTIONS



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

Anniversaries: Mary Jean O'Donnell, Doreen Pushpa, Maureen Tracey

Prayers for the Sick: Rev Fiatepa Faacee, Betty Stewart, David Ogilvie, Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Moe Pio Tafaeese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Frank Maguire, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Peter O'Connell, Fr Frank Whitaker.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES Thursday 28th March - Friday 5th April

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Timetable 37 Dr Taylor Tce

Thurs:	7.00pm Mass - Holy Thursday
Fri:	10.00am Stations of the Cross 11.00am Ecumenical Walk - Starting at Johnsonville Uniting Church 3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord
Sat:	7.00pm Mass - Easter Vigil
Sun:	10.00am Mass - Easter Sunday
Mon:	NO LITURGY
Tues:	9.15am Mass
Wed:	11.00am Mass - followed by Morning Tea
Thurs:	9.00am Liturgy
Fri:	9.00am Liturgy

Please note, **Reconciliation** will be held **every** Wednesday at 10.30am before the 11am Mass.

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

