



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

**Fourth Sunday of Lent 14 March 2021 Year B**  
**Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21**

## **Caritas Reflection** **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

The analogy of Moses and the serpent at the beginning of this week's passage connects back to the Old Testament; the story can be found in Numbers 21:1-9. In this scripture, God sent serpents among the Israelites when they sinned by speaking against him. When the people cry out for help and Moses prays for them, God tells Moses to make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole, so that any-

one who is bitten by a poisonous snake can look at it and be healed.



In a similar way, God sent Jesus to sinners, but for our redemption rather than punishment. When Jesus is lifted on the cross, all who see him and see the light of God through him can be healed of the poison of sin. It is not a condemnation of sinners, but rather an invitation to acknowledge our need to be healed by Jesus, the antidote to darkness. Jesus is a gift given to us with love, meant to provide an avenue for hope and restored relationship. We are offered a choice to submit to the grace of God and let ourselves be renewed, but we have to make that decision.

Confronting our own failures and shortcomings can be painful, but it is necessary to start down a path of renewal. We must ask for the grace to see the darkness inside ourselves and recognise our sinfulness in the light of God's love. Grace reminds us that Jesus can come into the things that have caused us harm and create a gateway toward God. Grace carries us from repentance, to contrition, to forgiveness and redemption. It is a gift given freely. All we need to do is choose to walk down that path.

## **Parish Newsletter**

Currently we send the newsletter to about 700 of the 1100 parishioners on our parish register. If you're not receiving the newsletter it's because we don't have your email address. Please send an email to the parish office [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz) or add your email to the list in the church foyer to receive the newsletter by email. You can also sign up to receive the newsletter by visiting the link on the parish website.

## **Parish App -Please download our Parish Church App!**

We encourage you to download the app so we can easily communicate Covid-19 and other parish updates with you. To download the app search for **ChurchAppsNZ**. Then select St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish. After downloading the app please make sure you select which **ALERTS** you wish to subscribe to by going to MENU (the 3 Lines on the left hand corner) and selecting your subscriptions. We are finding it a useful tool providing updates (including Covid updates), liturgical guides and prayer resources. It's free for Parishioners to download. The app is available on iPhone and android. Contact the parish office if you would like help to download it.



## Reconciliation at Church—St Benedict's School

On Tuesday St Benedict's school celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation with Fr Pete Roe SM at St Benedict's church.

A few of the children shared their thoughts:

Niamh O'Reilly - We went to church to be forgiven and to think of our good and bad choices and how to do the best we can. Fr Pete was funny, he tells great stories and makes me happy.

Jessie Drabble - Reconciliation was a great way to make peace and help us to make a fresh start for Easter.

Zoe Hastings - I liked it because we were forgiven and what I need do that is going to make me a better person. It made me feel glad.

Amelie Cakebread - Reconciliation was a great opportunity to be forgiven for our sins. Fr Pete gave us some good ideas about what to do next.



**St Brigid's School** warmly welcomes you to join us at our **school liturgies** to be held in Sts Peter and Paul's Church.

-Holy Week Liturgy on Holy Thursday 1st April at 11.15

-Easter/Resurrection Liturgy at 9.15 on Thursday 8th April.

### Royal Commission

Please keep in your prayers at this time the work of the *Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care* which continues to investigate what happened to children, young people and vulnerable adults in care. We pray for survivors for continued courage throughout their involvement in this process.

This week the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care will hold hearings that include church leaders making statements. We pray from those who will speak on behalf of the churches, and all those involved in this important work.



**Abuse in Care**  
Royal Commission of Inquiry

### Considerate Parking

*Everybody needs good neighbours.  
With a little understanding,  
You can find the perfect blend.  
Should be there for one another  
That's when good neighbours become  
Good friends.*

So goes the theme song of the Aussie Soap Opera *Neighbours*. A reminder particularly for Sunday Church goes to be more considerate in parking. Please observe the yellow lines – they mean NO PARKING. A reminder also that it is more than inconsiderate to park on the footpath, it is illegal.

We have neighbours – please consider them as we flood their streets on a Sunday. Maybe we just have to walk a few extra metres after parking safely and considerately.



## Parish Reconciliation Programme

Last weekend our parish began the Reconciliation Programme for children. 10 leaders and 68 children from St Benedict's and St Brigid's and local Schools joined the programme.

On Sunday the children learnt about how special and unique they are and how much they are loved by God, their families and this parish community. They played games, coloured in sheets and were given two tasks to take home to share with their families. All the children were also asked to be ripples of love this week, that spread out at home, school and the parish. A great start to the programme.

The Sacramental team will be doing catch up sessions for children so it's not too late to join. This weekend the programme will be at St Benedict's school beginning at 10am, after the 9am Parish Mass and at 2pm in the library at St Brigid's school Johnsonville. The sessions are identical so children can attend either. Everyone is welcome.

All parents will be receiving e mails this week advising you about the programme. If you do not receive them please email:  
kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz or  
sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz



## Parish Office Update

The Parish office is very busy and managed by the parish staff (Ellen Giltrap full-time) and (Helen De Gregorio part-time) who complete administration duties to various portfolios led by the Leadership Formation Team for the Parish. An upcoming example is the end of the financial year is approaching and the parish staff have a few projects to complete implementing new computer systems in the office, organising new planned-giving envelopes and tax receipts .

Therefore, we are implementing a trial for three months to the open door process for the Parish office from Monday to Friday as follows:

On Tuesday and Friday the Parish Office door will be closed, allowing the parish staff to complete their administration duties with no interruptions.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 9 am to 3pm the Parish Office door will be open for visitors.

We will review this in three months and seek feedback from parishioners. If you would like to meet with the staff, please ring or email the parish office on 04 4787137 or office@stfrancisohariu.nz and the parish staff will answer your queries.

We appreciate your cooperation with this change.

## Upcoming Parish Events/Notices

### Stations of the Cross at St Benedict's

There will be stations of the cross on Wednesdays at 7pm on the 17th of March & 24th of March. The stations on 24 March will be led by the St Benedict's School Catholic Character Team.

### Onslow Catholic Women's League

There will not be a social meeting of the CWL in March as several of our members are very involved in the CWL Regional Meeting at Our Lady of Kapiti, Paraparaumu, on March 18th. Meetings will resume in April.



### Malvina Major Notices:

-Anointing Mass at Malvina Major. Tuesday 16th 2.30pm in the Reflection Room Chapel.

-Judith Shroff has arranged a collection box for non-perishables for SVP. Contact Judith on: 0212031144



### Monday Marian Mothers' meeting

The Monday Marian Mothers' meeting for March will be held at 12 Elgin Way, Khandallah, from 10.00am - 12.00pm on Monday 15th March. All mothers and children are warmly invited. Come along and see this friendly group in action! If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie on 479 2307

**Youth Caritas Lenten Programme:** Meets on Wednesdays at 5.30pm till 7pm at the Marist Challenge Centre, 1 Wanaka Street Johnsonville. All College students are invited to attend. Call Sio 021 08160396 for more information.

### St Benedict's Volunteer Wanted—Rosters

Are you a good at coordinating people and have basic computer skills? We are looking for someone to take on managing the St Benedict's Mass rosters. If you are willing and able to help or would like to know more information please contact the parish office on 04 478 7137 or office@stfrancisohariu.nz

### Caritas Challenge – POSTPONED

After receiving feedback from parents and Colleges about student's Sports commitment on Saturdays and viewing the long range weather forecast of bad weather, we have decided to postpone the Caritas Challenge to the weekend of 16th April 6pm - 17th April 3pm, which falls on the last Sunday of Term 1. We will still be meeting with some young people from 1pm noon on Saturday March 20 to prepare for the special Justice Mass that evening at St Andrew's in Newlands. Please come along and pray for our Lenten CARITAS appeal. For more info, please contact Sio 02108160396

### St Peter & Paul's Ministry Rosters

The next 3 months of rosters are getting prepared now. If you know you are going to be away anytime between 11/4—27/6, please let me know by the end of this month. We need more people to be greeters, take up the collection, and offertory gifts. Please email if you would like to be on the roster for these 3 tasks. Many thanks, Wendy Cleaver. Email: cleaver@actrix.co.nz

**40 Days for Life happening NOW in a record 567 cities:** 17 February until March 28. **118 babies saved since 17 February at 40 Days for Life vigils around the world!** In Wellington, last week a woman passing by the vigil outside Te Mahoe in Wellington Hospital thanked us for our prayers and told us we were a help to her last year when she was having a baby. This is one of the many positive affirmations received so far this year. Please help us to continue this peaceful prayerful witness by signing up for an hour or more.

Visit [fli.org.nz/40daysforlife/](http://fli.org.nz/40daysforlife/) or call 021 231 7954.

## Other Events & Notices

**Caritas Lenten Giving Envelope Packs** are available in church foyers. You can either use the weekly donation envelopes or use a single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly. A freepost envelope is available for this option. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post. Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31 March 2021 will be sent receipts for the 2020/2021 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after April 1st will be sent receipts for the 2021/2022 tax year. Thank you for your generous support.

### Healing Service

Fr John Rea SM will conduct a Healing Service at Sacred Heart Church 41 Britannia St Petone on Tuesday 16 March beginning at 7.30 pm. Please bring those who need Jesus' healing. This event will go ahead providing we are in Alert Level 1.

### Engaged Encounter Weekend

There is still time to register to attend an Engaged Encounter weekend to build a solid foundation for your marriage. The next available weekend is on 20th and 21st March. There are other weekends in July and October 2021 (see our website [www.cee-wellington.co.nz](http://www.cee-wellington.co.nz)) Here's what one couple said after they attended... "We have grown to love each other more....we had not thought this was possible. Thanks." For information or to register ring Simon & Kate 027 486 0700

**Joshua Mass:** Everybody is invited to the Joshua *MASS (provided we are in Level 1!)* followed by supper on **Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7:30pm in St Joseph's Church**, 42 Ellice Street, Mt Victoria (between Basin Reserve and Mt Victoria tunnel). **Celebrant: Fr Peter Ewart sm, Joshua chaplain Bring something to share for supper! Thanks. Want to know more?** Ring Steve Ready 027-356-9555 or email: [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

**The Shine TV Mass** returns from Sunday 7 March. Shine TV will broadcast Mass at 2pm on free-to-air TV Channel 25 and Sky Channel 201. This Sunday, Mon-signor David Tonks will lead us in prayer from St Joseph Church, Takapuna.

<b>Passion Sunday 20/21 March</b>	<b>5pm Vigil St Andrew's</b>	<b>9am St Benedict's</b>	<b>10.30am St Peter &amp; Paul's</b>
MUSIC	Arranged by C2K	Music Group	David Dobson
GREETERS	Joanne Gordon		Helen Cross, Pauline White
WELCOME/PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL	Arranged by C2K	T Marks/ C Sowry	Sharron McSweeney
1st PROCLAIMER	Anushka D'Souza	Terry Marks	Bill Cooney
2nd PROCLAIMER	Arranged by C2K	Clive Sowry	Nandita Srinivasa
OFFERTORY	Dela Cruz family		Ballesteros Family
COLLECTION			Sy Family
EUCCHARIST	Nima D'Souza Paulette McElroy Arranged by C2K	Eustie Kamath	Rob King, Patrick Sy, Robyn Watson
ALTAR SERVERS	Sherize Concessio Ann Almeida		Christine Ballesteros
CHAIRS & DOORS			Rob & Mary King
HOSPITALITY		Greene Family	
CLEANERS		Lasela & Priscilla Agius	



## MASS INTENTIONS

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

*RIP— Dianna Pan, Noeline Gregory*

*RIP Anniversary— Maria Corazon M. Pineda, Snr , Constancion B. Miguel, Senior*

*We ask that you keep Jess, Tank and Shaun Pan in your prayers at this time.*



**We welcome into the parish community those  
newly Baptised:**

*Peyton Butler and Sasha Butler*

### ***Pope Francis's Prayer to St Joseph***

***Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.***

***To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.***

***Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.***

***Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.***

## **MASS & LITURGY TIMES 15—21 March**

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

Monday: 9am Liturgy  
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy  
Wed: 11am Mass — St  
Patrick's Day  
Thurs: 9am Liturgy  
Fri: 9am Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

### **St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands**

Friday: 6.30pm Divine  
Mercy  
Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass

### **St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah**

Mon: 9am Liturgy,  
7pm Meditation  
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy  
Wed: 9am Liturgy  
Thurs: 9am Liturgy  
Friday: 9am Liturgy  
Sat: 9am Liturgy  
Sun: 9am Mass

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Email: [ohariuparish@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ohariuparish@xtra.co.nz) Phone: 04 478 7137

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

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

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

