



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 22 August 2021 Year B
Readings: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69

Greetings all during these strange times back in lockdown.

Both the leadership team and all our parishioners involved in leading their different ministries are keeping a close eye on what is happening. We are also praying for all those affected by Covid throughout our country and world. We remain in close contact with the Archdiocese of Wellington.

As of today we are still in **Level 4** lockdown and so there are no church gatherings except the prayers we say together at home or can watch on our screens. This continues until we move out of Level 4.

So just some information to prepare for the future:

If we go to Level 2 or 3 here in the Wellington Region then there will still be no masses or parish gatherings.

If we go to **Level 1** then the current guidelines apply; they are:

- Holy Communion is to be received under one kind (no communion from the chalice).
- Holy Communion to be received in the hand only.
- No sign of peace.
- Track and trace on entry into the churches and church properties.
- Sanitise on the way into churches and on the way out.

These are challenging times for us all. They also provide an opportunity to reflect on life, spend time in our homes doing little things and to pray or read scripture or other inspirational writings.

Two other important matters:

1) We do encourage you to get vaccinated to protect both yourself and others.

2) This will be a challenging time for many. There will be financial, personal and family implications. If you require any assistance, please ask. We are a faith community of brothers and sisters who are committed to one another and to action to help one another.

No matter how small or big your question or request please contact a member of the Leadership team or the parish office and we will connect you with the right person.

If you also think of something that our parish needs to do during Covid time then please let us know.

Love and blessings

Paul, Shane, Thomas, John Kleinsman, Peter, John Lawson, Kitty and Clayton.

Weekly Reflection: ENTERING THE SCENE: THE CALL TO PRESS ON.

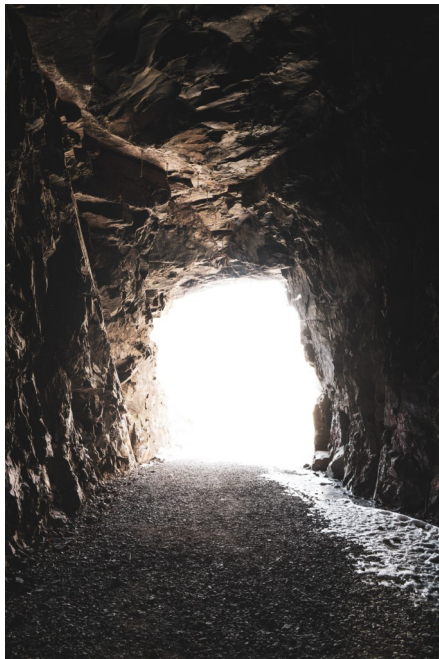
Today, we live in a post-Church era; now we have believers but not belongers. We have people who want a King without the struggles and challenges that Jesus has called us to live through his life. People want Jesus, but not His Church. Given the statistics recently, more want Jesus, less want His Church. But for Catholics, that distinction is impossible because Christ and the Church are one.

It requires a choice:

The Church is always God hung between two thieves.

Prayer:

Lord, I believe that you are present here and now as I turn to you in prayer. I trust and have confidence in your desire to give me every grace I need to receive today. Thank you for your love, thank you for your immense generosity toward me. I give you my life and my love in return.



Every now and then life offers us a moment of choice that will forever affect the rest of our life.

We sense in such moments both danger and opportunity. This seems to be happening in John's gospel today. Jesus himself senses this as he recognizes that many following him don't believe his teachings, so he intensifies his message which then helps the undecided to decide.

This will come with an additional danger because the frustrated will forever hold that against him and he will pay with his life.

But for those who are yearning for that which he offers it means pressing on in spite of the fact that they only can offer for their choice the response; "to whom else can we go". Not the best of reasons, but enough to keep them there.

PRAYER:

Jesus, you keep upping the ante in your invitation to follow you. It seems like you are turning the heat up and I fear getting cooked in the process. But you also up the ante if I continue to believe in what you are saying about the Father and eternal life. So I am drawn like a moth to your flame of love. Help me as I, like the disciples, answer: "Lord, to whom shall I go? You have the words of eternal life. I believe and know that you are the Holy One of God". Amen

Pete Roe sm

Te Ara a Maria: Rededication of Aotearoa New Zealand to Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven

On the 15th August, St Mary of the Angels hosted a special Mass to re-dedicate Aotearoa New Zealand to Mother Mary. It was significant as it was also the feast day of the Assumption. The Mass was led by Cardinal John Dew with other Bishops from other dioceses of our country and the Apostolic Nuncio alongside him. The church was absolutely packed by people from all walks of life, cultures and ages.



Sio and Mihi

Sio, Kitty, Leo, Kyla and Fiona, five of our leaders who help with our Sacramental Programme, were in attendance to be a part of this special occasion.

We also had other young people from our parish and two children from the Confirmation Sacramental programme. The two pictured wanted to be there to learn more about Mary's significance to Aotearoa New Zealand AND because one of them is named Mary Assumpta.....how special was that!



Cardinal John and Mary and Posy Hanlon

A special icon of Our Lady and the Child Jesus was commissioned for the occasion and was blessed as part of the Mass. Mihi, one of our young leaders, helped carry the icon in, which was very special.

This icon will travel from place to place throughout the country and will return back to Wellington to be displayed at St Mary of the Angels.

At the end of the Mass Cardinal John encouraged the over flowing church attendees to "personally renew your mission as a baptised Catholic, dedicate your mission to Mary as Bishop Pompallier did." Perhaps that is something we can think about during lockdown. Take care, be aware and stay safe.

Sio.

An URGENT message from Fr Pete

Calling as many Parishioners as possible : This is an SOS call!

Over my 3 years with you, many of you from your various communities, and activities, whether your cultural communities, ministry based teams, little churches, young adults within our Parish or whether from your busy work and home life etc, have said to me..

'Any help you want from us, just ask".
I'm asking for this generosity of assistance.

Yes, there are going to be some changes to our present model/structure within our parish leading into these final months of 2021 and leading into 2022.

So what is needed: is for as many of you as possible to come to the workshops (see below) so as to reflect our unity and support, to open our minds and hearts to the spirit in whatever capacity one is able.

Yes, Jesus had 12 Apostles plus hundreds who understood his message and went back to their villages and towns to live it and open their doors to him and his apostles in support of this mission that they were called to, in spreading the love of God.

Blessings and thank you. Fr Pete Roe sm



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. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 these have had to be postponed until further notice.

Please continue to pray for the Parish's Property Review discernment and keep an eye on the property review page on the website for upcoming events for when we return to Alert Level 1.

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



Reflective Workshops for Healthy Ministry

Reflective Workshops, Interested!?
Email office@stfrancisohariu.nz
(Attention Fr Pete)



The workshops are designed to be an opportunity for those wishing to explore their personal pastoral development. They aim to give individuals a chance to learn about themselves. Going forward there may be opportunities to take up ministries in the Parish.

'A Healthy Life means a Healthy Leader a Healthy Leader means a Healthy Ministry'. (Pete Roe)

Four pastoral formation sessions of 1½ hours duration will be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings in September from 7pm—8.30pm at St Brigid's School Staffroom in Johnsonville. All welcome.

Sessions and presenter/facilitators as follows:

- Wed 1 Sept – **Discerning the Call** – recovering our sense of purpose, the Gospel call. Recognising the Spirit's call and acknowledging the temptation to 'get in the way' replacing God's Spirit with our own ego and needs. Ministry is mission-focussed rather than me-focussed. (Chris Duthie-Jung)
- Wed 8 Sept – **Discerning Responses** – healthy parishioner relationships and how to 'not react' but, instead, to take time to discern an appropriate and constructive response. How to create win/win outcomes by hearing peoples' real needs and responding well. (Pete Roe and Richard Kerr-Bell)
- Wed 15 Sept – **Discerning Community** – bi-cultural and multi-cultural commitment – understanding and being sensitive toward different cultures. (Richard Kerr-Bell)
- Wed 22 Sept – **Discerning Mission** – what is our parish mission (as captured in our pastoral plan) and what might the Spirit be calling me to within this mission. Becoming enablers of others – bringing through others into ministry rather than claiming roles for ourselves. Recap keeping ourselves safe and healthy. (Chris Duthie-Jung & Pete Roe)

There will be a half-hour prayer reflection time on *Evangelii Gaudium* to conclude each session.

Upcoming Events/Notices

Please note that these events and the rosters are dependent on Covid-19 Alert Levels.

Book of Life

The Book of Life will be presented in September. If there have been any celebrations, articles that anyone would like to put in the Book please email Carol Ryan at carol.may.ryan@gmail.com or leave in the box in the church foyer at Sts Peter and Paul. Or contact Joanne Gordon 9388160.

St Margaret Clitherow Day (Patron Saint of the CWL)

To celebrate the feast of St Margaret Clitherow, there will be a Liturgy at **10am at Our Lady of Kapiti Church**, 20 Milne Drive, Paraparaumu, on Friday 27th August, followed by morning tea. There will then be a speaker from **L'Arche Kapiti**. We are invited to stay on for a shared lunch (please bring a plate). If any of our members would like to share transport, please contact Margaret Dunne on 478 6348. *This celebration will take the place of the usual August Tuesday social meeting.*



Organ Recital

David Dobson (one of our Music Ministry team) is to present an organ recital under the auspices of "Save The Children Fund", for victims of the Covid Crisis in Fiji.

When: 12th September, 2.30pm

Where: Christian Science Church, 186 Willis Street. (Parking available at rear of church in Victoria Street)

What: Music by Bossi, Merkel, and others, including some organ favourites by Handel, Arthur Sullivan, and Cesar Franck.

Sacramental Programme Update

Dear Parents, caregivers, relatives of children in the Confirmation programme Hope this finds you well in Covid-19 Alert Level 4. Its a bit hard to plan at the moment, as things change very quickly but here is an interim update regarding our programme.

We are waiting to see if the second session can still go ahead or not this Sunday. We will keep you posted later in the week. Please also check out our St Francis of Assisi Ohariu website and maybe the newsletter. If you haven't yet downloaded the parish app please do so as this gives us an easy way to contact you immediately.

Thank you for your patience with these changes and we look forward to connecting with the children once again and continuing on this journey

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Kitty or I. May the Spirit of God remove our worries and help us to live fully in these weird times.

Blessings and all the best, Sio

Adult Programme: Seasons for Growth weekend course for adults:

For people who have been touched by change, loss, bereavement, separation, divorce, redundancy. Dates: Friday 22nd October (6.00-8.00pm),

Saturday, 23rd October (9.00am-6.00pm), to Sunday 24th October 2021

(12.30-3.00pm) Cost: \$40 covering materials and research. Registration: closes Monday, 4th October.

For more information, please contact Katrin Eickhorst, Trainer/Coordinator Seasons for Growth Catholic Social Services T: (04) 385 8642

M: 021 374 405



Faith-filled worship in time of lockdown

The National Liturgy Office has published a page of information to help everyone manage this lockdown period without the usual access to liturgies at church. For we people of faith, many who depend on the Mass celebrated on Sundays and throughout the week find ourselves struggling without the strength received from the Eucharist. The creative suggestions on this page will help:

www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/faith-filled-worship-in-time-of-lockdown/

Online Session (Evening):

The Eucharist – a Gospel event and Sacrament with Prof Thomas O’Loughlin and Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 23 August, 8-9pm. Free. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/the-eucharist-a-gospel-event-and-sacrament/>

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 28/29 August 2021	5pm Vigil St Andrew’s	9am St Benedict’s	10.30am St Peter & Paul’s
MUSIC	St Bens Music	Felicity’s Group	Cesar
GREETERS	Edmund Becker	Eustie Kamath	
WELCOME/PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL	Jade Arboleda	Natalie Brockie/ Charles Burns	Marita Basabas
1st PROCLAIMER	Theresa Fernandez	Natalie Brockie	Gillian Laurenson
2nd PROCLAIMER	Theresa Fernandez	Charles Burns	Bill Cooney
COLLECTION			
OFFERTORY	Feleta D’Souza family		
EUCCHARIST	Nestor Fernandez	Steve Greene	Ewen Laurenson, Denis Smith, Mel Aspinall
ALTAR SERVERS	Aiden Pandit Ria Kulathinal		
CHAIRS & DOORS			Bill Cooney
HOSPITALITY		Margie Crook	
CLEANERS		Sowry Family	Gordon Correa

MASS INTENTIONS

We ask for your prayers - Masses have been offered for



Recently deceased— Rosemarie Susan Bezar, Fr Don Morrison

Anniversaries— Brigid Taylor, Robin Adair

Prayers for the Sick— Tony Bordignon, Dianne Greene (Mother of Steven Greene), Fr Brian Wysocki, Monsignor John Carde, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Colin Durning, Fr Frank Whitaker, Fr Peter O'Connell, Fr David Gledhill

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

We ask for prayers for parishioners and their friends & contacts who have been affected by Covid-19.

THANK YOU

The McElwee family would like to sincerely thank everyone in the parish who attended the recent Requiem Mass for their much-loved son, Shaun. Your presence was appreciated by us all.

To those who offered up prayers for Shaun, sent cards, telephone messages, visited us at home and provided us with baking and meals, we were overwhelmed by your love, support and generosity.

May God bless you all.

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 23 —29 August (COVID Permitting)

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

Mon: 9am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15 Liturgy School/
Parish
Wed: 11am Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Fri: 9am Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

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

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Mon: 9am Liturgy,
7pm Meditation
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 9.00am Liturgy
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Friday: 9am Liturgy
Sat: 9am Liturgy
Sunday: 9am Mass

Please note. **Reconciliation** is held at St Peter and Paul's on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10.30am before the 11am Mass

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville
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Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz
Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>
Parish Bank Account for Donations: **02-0524-0203642-00**



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