



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 27 June 2021 Year B

Readings: Wisdom 1:13-15,2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15; Mark 5:21-43

Covid-19 Update The Wellington Region is now in Covid-19 Alert Level 2. All Masses, liturgies and parish gatherings are cancelled during Level 2. Take care.

Feast of St Peter and Paul (Tuesday 29th June)

This weekend we were to gather as a community of communities to celebrate this wonderful Feast Day of St Peter and Paul. However, Covid has kicked in.

As St Peter and Paul's Feast Day is on Tuesday.....

Pope Francis reminds all of us...

"That on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, I urge all Christians to pray for one another and for unity, as only prayer unlocks chains.

What would happen if we prayed more and complained less? He asks.

The same thing that happened to Peter in prison: now as then, so many closed doors would be opened, so many chains that bind would be broken. ... Let us ask for the grace to be able to pray for one another.

Peter and Paul were two very different people, yet God gave them the grace to be closely united in Christ.

We celebrate together two very different individuals: Peter, a fisherman who spent his days amid boats and nets, and Paul, a learned Pharisee who taught in synagogues. When they went forth on mission, Peter spoke to Jews, and Paul to pagans. And when their paths crossed, they could argue heatedly, as Paul is unashamed to admit in one of his letters.

The closeness that joined Peter and Paul did not come from natural inclinations, but from the Lord.

The Lord did not command us to like one another, but to love one another. He is the one who unites us, without making us all alike.

Are we carrying this out? Or do we simply talk ... and do nothing?

Unity is the fruit of prayer, for prayer allows the Holy Spirit to intervene, opening our hearts to hope, shortening distances and holding us together at times of difficulty.

It is pointless, even tedious, for Christians to waste their time complaining about the world, about society, about everything that is not right. Complaints change nothing. Those Christians did not cast blame; they prayed."

Let us pray deeply for one another.



St Francis of Assisi Property Review

Cardinal John directed every parish to carry out a review of it's churches and presbyteries.

This review is to be with him, complete with developed proposals, no later than 30 October 2021.

So, St Francis of Assisi Ohariu begins our review that will identify how many churches the parish needs to cater for its Mass count (taking into account the availability of priests and lay pastoral leaders), and the ideal location of the church or churches.

Cardinal John reminds us that for most, if not all parishes with more than one church, this will mean reducing the number of churches in the parish.

Provision for accommodation of priests in the parish is part of the review.

His last encouragement on the directive was to be prepared to be radical in our thinking and discernment as we discern and commit to being missionary disciples bringing about the reign of God in our time.

The Leadership Formation Team invites you to be part of the Review leading up to the 30th October 2021 deadline.

Please watch out for the email or a supplement to the newsletter that will outline the process, timeline, resources and invite your participation.

As an aid to our discernment the Leadership Formation Team will be hosting a number of "Conversations" with various people who have trodden this path already and are prepared to share their experiences. We welcome you to join.

The First Conversations is next week:

Michael McCabe from the Our Lady of Kapiti Parish

4th July, 5pm – 6.30pm- followed by Soup

Uniting Church, Dr Taylor Terrace ,Johnsonville

The first session will be a conversation with Michael McCabe, the parish priest from the Our Lady of Kapiti Parish. Michael led the change on the Kapiti Coast resulting in the building of the Parish Church at Paraparaumu. It is a building that hosts their community for much more than Liturgical Prayer.



Spirituality of the Marists

Mary in the Early Church

The Apostles and Mary in the midst of the first Christians is a major reference point for Marists.

These were times when the believers, in communion of mind and heart, gave powerful testimony to the Resurrection of

Jesus. This is an image of the church: all the believers from the beginning till now gathered around the Apostles and Mary and all living in unity.

We can think of Mary in this group of believers at the beginning: with her faith and wisdom she had much to contribute to the life of the church, but in an unobtrusive manner.



Mary at Nazareth

Nazareth is another point of reference in Mary's life and in the life of the first Marists. Nazareth is the place where in-a-sense Marist's go in spirit and from there they are able to see things as Mary sees them.

At Nazareth, Mary pondered and stored up in her heart, the events of the life of Jesus.

It's easy to be caught in the events of our own lives, to be so unreflective that we risk being caught in our own interests and motives. The pace of modern living sometimes makes the business of life "a given".

For Marists, Nazareth is the place where slowly, silently, unobtrusively Jesus grew in wisdom and inner strength. It is the place where we too can learn the wisdom that comes from within. Nazareth is also an approach to life which help Marists 'ponders the things of God' and treasures them in our heart. It is a place of the heart: a place of gentle silence and faith. It is a place of growth.

The Three Marist No's

The three Marist "no's" are essential elements of the Marist life. They are

- no to greed
- no to pride
- no to power.

Poverty, the lack of personal power and the absence of self-worth are not Gospel values, but the desire for money, power and personal aggrandisement can, albeit subtly enter our lives and stunt us as fully alive human beings. Just as poverty can cripple, so can excessive wealth. Similarly no one really likes a bully.

Greed, power and pride limit the effectiveness of those who wish to present the Gospel of Jesus. Marists are invited to follow in Mary's footsteps keeping their eyes fixed on God alone and on the kingdom, resisting the crippling forces of greed, power and pride so as to develop an inner freedom, and in the manner of Mary, build a Christian community which has Mary's face.

Hidden and Unknown

The phrase "hidden and unknown" is part of the fabric of what it means to be a Marist, it gives inspiration to Marists and is a type of motto.

For Marists, being more or less "hidden and unknown" in the world, is a call to simple, modest and humble action. The focus on the task rather than who is doing it. An example may help further explain.

Once when Arturo Toscanini was preparing his orchestra to play one of Beethoven's symphonies, he said, "Gentlemen, I am nothing; you are nothing; Beethoven is everything." He knew his main task was to sink himself, and his orchestra, and let the music of Beethoven flow through.

A Marist, in a certain sense, is like the person in a prompt box. What matters is the stage where you have the actors playing the drama, and yet you also have someone that nobody sees and nobody knows, in the prompt box. The prompt is there only to suggest at the last moment if the actor does not remember, or does not say what they are supposed to have said. The person in the prompt box makes the dialogue easier, but nobody looks at him or her, and if they were to venture onto the stage themselves, they would spoil the drama.

For Fr Colin, the founder of the Society of Mary, being, "hidden and unknown" was the only way to do good.

Compassion

In a culture of achievement, productivity and competition, compassion might seem to be a bit of a non-starter.

Yet we read in the Scriptures. "When he had finished washing their feet, he put his outer clothes on again and went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you?'" (John 13.)

Compassion, like love, longs for some real expression. It is by our compassionate service that people will see we are Jesus' disciples and experience his love. On their own, veils, clerical collars, or statues to the Virgin have no meaning.

John Paul II forgives his attempted assassin.

Under the headline, "Why Forgive?", Time Magazine reported the historic meeting of Pope John Paul II and his would-be assassin Mehmet Ali Agca in a Roman prison: "For 21 minutes, the Pope sat with his would-be assassin. The two talked softly.

Once or twice Agca laughed. At the end of the meeting, Agca either kissed the Pope's ring, or pressed the Pope's hand to his forehead in a Muslim gesture of respect. John Paul's words were intended for Agca alone. 'What we talked about will have to remain a secret between him and me. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust.' It was a startling drama of forgiveness and reconciliation. On one level, it was an intensely intimate conversation between two men. But if the Pope spoke in whispers, he also meant to proclaim a message to the world. The Pope's deed spoke, not his words, and it spoke with full authority."

Compassion has many expressions: action, word, song. The expressions may vary, but compassion doesn't.

In all their works, Marists are to be wholly compassionate and understanding towards human frailty." (Constitution 137.)



Love your neighbour as yourself – get vaccinated

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, the free Pfizer vaccine is now being offered to members of the public, starting with those most at risk. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops are urging you to get vaccinated to protect yourself, your whanau and your community. You will also be protecting those who cannot receive the vaccination; those with underlying health conditions who would be at higher risk of catching the virus and young children.

The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective, and has been given to hundreds of millions of people worldwide. People can be reassured that any personal information gathered during the vaccination process will not be shared with Immigration New Zealand.

Love your neighbour as yourself, get vaccinated.

For more detailed information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit

www.get-vaccinated-catholic.co.nz.

Key Messages

- The NZ Bishops, in collaboration with the Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics, are strongly encouraging all Catholics to get vaccinated.
- The free Pfizer vaccine is safe, effective and available to everyone regardless of visa or citizenship status.
- The COVID-19 virus is particularly deadly for those over 70 and those with underlying health conditions.
- The virus affects all age groups including the fit and healthy. Young, healthy people have died from the virus or suffered long term health effects.
- It is still possible to catch the virus after getting vaccinated, but the chances of this happening is very small. Having the vaccine means you become less sick.
- You can't catch the virus from the vaccine as it does not contain any live virus.
- The vaccine teaches the body's immune system to respond quickly to the COVID-19 virus without being exposed to the virus itself.
- It is biologically impossible for the vaccine to affect your DNA.
- The Vatican has stated that all approved vaccines can be received in good conscience – their use does not implicate any one in the wrongs of abortion.
- Getting vaccinated is a charitable act as it protects not just yourself, your whanau and your community, but also those who cannot be vaccinated for one reason or another.
- For more detailed information, visit www.get-vaccinated-catholic.co.nz

Sacramental Programme 2021 Catch-up

To all the families and participants of our Sacramental Programme for 2021.

The Youth Ministry team invites you to our catch up event. During our catch up there will be a chance for you to share with us how the journey has been since receiving First Holy Communion, there may even be some activities around this.

This is scheduled to be on the 4th July from 2:00pm till 3:30pm at SS Peters and Pauls church hall, Johnsonville. We invite the Children to bring a plate to share together. Please let us know of any dietary requirements, so that we can be sure to cater for this.

However, this will only go ahead if we move back to level 1, we will keep you updated regarding this.

If you have any questions, please email:
Sio at pelasio@challenge2000.org.nz



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.

Upcoming Events/Notices

A big thank you to all those who supported the Passionist Family Group bingo night on Saturday 19 June. Once again Denzil and Stephanie D'Mello organised a fantastic family event that was attended by over 50 people. \$500 was raised for two very worthy causes, \$300 for SVDP society and \$200 for Refugee support.

Mass for Alternative Thinkers

Mass for Alternative Thinkers with Eddie Condra will not be held this month because of Covid Alert Level 2.

Fr Chris Skinner fundraising concert

As you will know by now Wellington is in Level 2 until Midnight Sunday so the Fr Chris Skinner fundraising concert at St Joseph's Church Mt Victoria due to be held at 7pm on Sunday has been cancelled.

Holy Hour

You are invited to come to a Holy Hour on Tuesday 29 June at the Connolly Hall Chapel beginning at 7.30 pm to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Included in the hour will be hymns, prayers, scripture reading and silence, concluding with Benediction. Some of our seminarians will be there. All are welcome.

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time 3/4 July 2021	5pm Vigil St Andrew's	9am St Bens	10.30am St Peter & Paul's
MUSIC	Connie's group	Pat Collier	Cesar's Group
GREETERS	Rebecca and Jimmy Millar	Eustie Kamath	Gillian and Ewen Laurenson
WELCOME/PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL	Desmond Low	John Lawson/ Charles Burns	Sharron McSweeney
1st PROCLAIMER	Solomon Concessio	John Lawson	Nandita Srinivasa
2nd PROCLAIMER	Solomon Concessio	Charles Burns	Perter Byrne
OFFERTORY	Ione Haines, Patricia Maguire		Ballesteros Family
COLLECTION			Martinez family
EUCCHARIST	Paulette McElroy, Savio Concessio	Eustie Kamath	Pauline White, Phillip Henty, Vivian Gonzalez
ALTAR SERVERS	Sherize Concessio, Enrico Vaz		Aiden Rajapaske, Christine Ballesteros
CHAIRS & DOORS			Shane and Eroshini Thomas
HOSPITALITY		Kelleher Family	
CLEANERS		Lawson Family	

MASS INTENTIONS



We ask for your prayers - Masses have been offered for

Recently deceased— Steve Swain, a past member of St Benedict's Community

Anniversaries— Eva Schluter

Prayers for the Sick— Shaun McElwee (son of Michael & Kay McElwee)

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

We have been invited to join in prayer for the beatification of **Suzanne Aubert**— the foundress of the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion (the Sisters of Compassion).



Prayer for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you.

Hear our prayers that Venerable Suzanne Aubert, who loved the Māori people and devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the underprivileged, and whom the Church has declared to be one of your true and humble followers, may soon be recognised as a saint.

Amen

MASS & LITURGY TIMES 28 June — 4 July

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

Mon: 9am Liturgy
Tues: 9.15 Liturgy Parish/
School
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

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