



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty Eighth Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 11 October 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10; Phillippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns
g.burns@cadw.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong
alfred@stfrancisohariu.nz

Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm
office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10.00am Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 5.00 pm Reconciliation
5.30 pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation
11.00 am Mass followed
by morning tea

Reconciliation can also be
requested by arrangement
with office 04 478 7137

**Holy Hour/Adoration every
Wednesday at 7.00 pm**

Important Dates

18 October 2026

World Mission Sunday

4 November 2026

Remembrance Mass at
7.00 pm

Reflection

The Rejection of the Feast: In the parable, the original guests decline the invitation because they are preoccupied. We can become trapped in a False Self; an identity built entirely on possessions, social status, career, and superficial exterior concerns, we pass up the divine banquet because we are busy cultivating our own self-importance.

Embracing Spiritual Poverty: True spiritual breakthroughs happen when we realise, we are deeply limited, flawed, and dependent on divine mercy. The ragtag crowd pulled from the streets represents the spiritually poor and the marginalized. They are completely open to receiving the gift of the feast.

The Wedding Garment: The most jarring part of the parable occurs when a guest is thrown into the outer darkness for not wearing a wedding garment. In *New Seeds of Contemplation*, Merton heavily critiqued what he called the 'moral theology of the devil'; an obsession with merely looking religious, following external rules, and maintaining a righteous façade without an actual inner conversion. He taught that true faith requires a total transformation of the heart. The wedding garment is not an arbitrary dress code; it symbolizes putting on Christ and being genuinely clothed in His righteousness and love.



Many are Called, Few are Chosen: God is not playing favourites, but asking us to respond to His grace. To be chosen is to actively yield to God's love and step into your True Self, shedding the superficial masks of the world. The call goes out universally to everyone, but the chosen are those who willingly let go of their own agendas, clothe themselves in humility, and allow the divine presence to alter their lives entirely.

Peter Mulqueen

Quote :

"The vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the criteria of the dignity of the human person, social justice and free participation in constructing the common good. For the future of humanity depends on each person's commitment to collaborate with God and with their brothers and sisters in building a more humane world."

Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, 16 September 2026

For the latest information visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisohariu.nz>

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS



Our annual Remembrance Mass is being held on **Wednesday, 4 November at 7pm**. This is an opportunity to remember all of our family members and parishioners who have passed away in the last 12 months. If you would like someone remembered, at this Mass, please email to our bereavement ministry team, **Katharina Dobson** : katharinadobson@gmail.com or ring her on [0273273609](tel:0273273609). A cup of tea served afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Bishops' Election Statement:

The New Zealand bishops have published their statement for the 2026 General Election. Titled Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel lens, the document encourages Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops invite people to consider how they will cast their votes by reviewing candidates' and parties' positions across a range of key issues, and they also encourage people to pray for the country. Access the election statement at: <https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26>

INVITATION TO PRAY THE ROSARY

Every Friday at 2.00 pm—3.00 pm, we pray the Rosary in the nuns chapel at Wanaka St (Brigidine Chapel). Everyone are welcome.

Health & Safety Volunteer Needed

Volunteer needed to ensure our health and safety practices are up to date, as well as arranging training for volunteers on how to use the defibrillator located in the hall.

Retreat Days and Themes at Pā Maria 2026

Take time and space for a guided day of prayer and reflection. Please bring your own lunch. Entry by koha. Prayer days at Pā Maria during the year (9am—3.15pm):

17 October : Mary , 5 December : Advent
Presenters: Neil Vaney SM, Chris Skinner SM and Judith Moroney rsm. RSVP by the Tuesday before the prayer day and indicate which prayer day you wish to attend to pamariabookings@gmail.com

Upcoming ONLINE Safeguarding Workshops:

Join one of our online safeguarding workshops to learn how we, as a Church, are working together to keep everyone safe. Upcoming Workshops:

Tuesday, 17 October (7.00pm-8.15pm)

Monday 23 November (12 noon – 1.15pm)

Tuesday 24 November (7.00pm – 8.15pm)

To register, please email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Are you a young adult searching for the meaning of life? We have an invitation for you! Join us and bring your mates along for a shared meal, an episode on a topic of faith, a chance to ask questions and share ideas. All are welcome to attend. Join us every **Tuesday 7:00pm** in our church hall.

ADW Young Church Network Gathering

Calling all youth leaders, coordinators and all those involved with Catholic youth from across Wellington! Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship, discussion and reflection surrounding our young people on : **Saturday 31st October from 12noon – 4.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria.** Afternoon tea provided, but please bring your own lunch for the start.

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS



World Mission Sunday – 100th Anniversary : 18 October

This year marks the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday, established by Pope Pius XI in 1926. The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV is: **“One in Christ, United in Mission.”** World Mission Sunday is an annual global celebration set aside by the Catholic Church for prayer, solidarity, and financial support of missionary activities worldwide. Please support this important work, if you are able, by donating at Mass using the envelopes provided in the Church foyer or scan the QR Code .



Celebrating St Francis of Assisi : As we celebrate the Feast of St Francis, we invite you to experience his remarkable journey in Greccio: The Song, a new musical inspired by his life and the first Nativity at Greccio. Presented during the Jubilee commemoration marking 800 years since his death, the production invites us to rediscover his message of peace, simplicity, care for creation and love for Christ. Performing in Wellington on **Saturday, 5 December 2026 at the Allan Gibbs Centre, Wellington College**. Ticket information coming soon.

Mass to mark the start of the Caritas Oceania Forum in Wellington. Sunday, 18 October - Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at 7.00pm. Join Archbishop Paul Martin SM and the Caritas Oceania representatives including Cardinal Soane Mafi of Tonga, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji, and Archbishop Mosese Vitolio Tui of Samoa, along with other overseas visitors, including the Caritas Internationalis Secretary-General.

Hands Around the Beehive - A National Day of Remembrance for Health - Wednesday, 21 October 2026. The Archdiocesan Ecology for Justice and Peace is supporting Hands Around the Beehive's gathering to remember those who have struggled to receive the healthcare they needed, to acknowledge the people who work within our health system, and to stand together in solidarity and hope for a healthier Aotearoa. Everyone is invited to attend to mark the minute of silence. **In Wellington: 1.15pm - Gather at Parliament, 1.30pm - Speakers, 2.00pm - National Minute of Silence.** At 2.00pm, people across the Motu are invited to stop wherever they are - in churches, hospitals, workplaces, parks, community spaces or at home with their friends and whānau - and share a National Minute of Silence. Further information is available at: www.ucanforhealth.co.nz

EXALT: CHRIST THE KING 2026 – “CHARIS” NZ National Event: All are warmly invited to EXALT: Christ the King 2026, a National Worship Event to be held in **Sacred Heart Cathedral Wellington** on **Saturday, 21st November 2026, from 10.30am to 3.30pm**. Join people from across New Zealand for a day of worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship and the Celebration of the Eucharist, with Archbishop Paul Martin presiding, as we honour Christ our King and pray for our nation. Please save the date and join us for this special national gathering. For further information, please contact : 027 347 6327 or email: currentofgracewellington@gmail.com

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website: Marriage - Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington. Next available course **1st & 8th November 2026 from 10.00am - 4.00pm**. Couples attend both Sundays together in person. See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any queries contact: marriage@cadw.nz

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Owen de Joux , Antonio Fernandez , Leonarda Zodiacal , Luisa Victa

Prayers for the sick: Kartini Havell, Irene Stonyer , Vaeluaga Aspinall , Sam Godinet, Theresa Peteli, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen Godinez, Lote So'oa, Fr Joe Savesi, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, David Clarke, Saili Tafaeese ,Moe Pio Tafaeese, Gerard McDonagh, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell



BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Baptism usually takes place on the third weekend of each month, during: Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm or Sunday Mass: 10:00 am . Under certain circumstances, Baptism may be able to take place at another time by arrangement. For baptism enquiries, please contact Katrina and Billie by email: baptism@stfrancisohariu.nz

BAPTISMS on 4 October 2026: We warmly welcome into our parish community: **Emily Frances Cameron, Chloe Frances Cameron and Ryan Paul Do** who were baptised on **Sunday 4 October**. May the Lord's abundant blessings be with you always.

PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE :

If you require a Preference Certificate from our parish for your child's enrolment at a Catholic school, please email your enquiry to the Parish Office : office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Please note that to obtain a Preference Certificate, you must be living within our parish boundaries.

CHILDREN LITURGY :

There will be no Children's Liturgy during school holidays, public holidays, or while the parish is running the Sacramental Programme. Therefore, there will be **NO Children's Liturgy on 11 ,18 and 25 October 2026 also on 1 , 8 and 15 November 2026. Children's Liturgy will be held on 22 & 29 November 2026 and 6 December 2026**. Thank you for your understanding.



Nativity Photoshoot : 29 November 2026

At the Christmas Eve Family Mass, there will be a special nativity slide presentation featuring photos of children from our parish.

Photos for the presentation will be taken in the church **after the 10am Mass on Sunday, 29th November**.

All children who would like to take part are invited to stay after Mass on that day. Costumes will be provided.

Volunteer Needed!! Our Sacramental Programme team is looking for a volunteer to help lead children's sessions for 2027! If you'd like to support our young people in their faith journey please reach out to the team at : sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm

Email: office@stfrancisohariu.nz, **Phone:** 04 478 7137

If you need to contact a priest urgently, such as for the Anointing of someone who is gravely unwell, please call: the Parish Office 04 478 7137 and select option 1

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

Account name: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha: **02-0524-0203642-00**

