



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 14 September 2025, Year C
Readings: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32.

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns

g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong

Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz

Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137

Mon to Thursday

8.30am—2.30pm

Office@stfrancisochariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun 10am Mass

Tue: 9.15am St Brigid's Syndicate Mass

5.00pm Reconciliation

5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation
11.00am Mass with Morning Tea

Thurs 5.30pm Liturgy with Communion

****suspended for winter****

Fri: 8.30am Exposition & 9.00am Liturgy with Communion

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

Today's readings are about the forgiveness and mercy of God

I'm sure many if you will remember that mighty film of the 1950s "The Ten Commandments" which depicts the making of the Golden Calf and the orgies which followed. No wonder Moses was stunned when he came down from the mountain with the Decalogue and witnessed the behaviour of God's people – the people that God had freed from Pharaoh but who were now turning their back on their God and longing for "the fleshpots of Egypt". And Moses pleaded for them before God – and God relented and did not punish them. His forgiveness is infinite and yet there are often strings attached. When Moses did not quite trust God at Meribah and Massah and God forgave him, Moses was told by God that he, Moses would be punished by never entering the land of Israel. God forgives but there is still temporal punishment involved.



And the message of forgiveness runs right through today's readings – the Psalm "in Your compassion – blot out my offence" – "do not deprive me of Your Holy Spirit". Paul writes that he was a blasphemer but even so he notes that mercy was shown him. And, of course, the Gospel is that marvellous tale of forgiveness of the Prodigal Son. We are all prodigal children, maybe not to the extent of making such a mess of our lives, But as the father did in the parable so does Christ in our lives forgive us our misdeeds. When we were younger Confession was always available (usually on a Saturday afternoon). These days Confession (Reconciliation) seems to have fallen off the radar of many of us and yet it is still available: in our ever more feverish world it is useful to remember that Reconciliation is available to cool our souls and let them stand aside from a frenetic world.

Can you remember when YOU last asked for forgiveness in Reconciliation

Tony de Joux.

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased: Ferdinand Joseph Dominic .

Anniversaries: John Wholey.

Prayers for the sick, Melani Liliawati, Isabel Zamorano F, Patricia Keane, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen Godinez, Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh, Lote So'oa, Madonna Aspinall, Fr Joe Savesi, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, David Clarke, Salli Tafaese ,Moe Pio Tafaese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning,, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell.



For the more information please visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisochariu.nz>

Sacramental Programme 2025

Confirmation Mass is this Sunday 14 September, 6pm

Heartfelt and sincere congratulations to all who will be Confirmed. We thank God for your efforts and commitment to the Sacramental Programme and the efforts of your family in allowing you to receive the person and gift of the Holy Spirit.

Faith-filled conversations to navigate Māori Ward Referendums

This September, people across Aotearoa are voting on Māori wards in their local councils. Unsure what it means for your community? **Come to St Francis of Assisi on Saturday 13 Sept, 11.30-1.30pm** (light lunch provided) Material provided by ecumenical group **Common Grace Aotearoa** commongrace.nz/maoriwards to help us engage the issue with faith and aroha via video reflections from Māori Christian leaders, theologians, guided conversation and prayer.

Alternatively at **St Thomas More Church, Wednesday 17th September**, you are invited to this same faith encounter at **5.30pm with Kai and Korero/Discussions beginning at 6.30pm**. For more information contact Estelle Henrys, ev.henrys@gmail.com.

All welcome. Fr Gerard.

The **Focolare** will hold their **Mariapolis** - annual retreat that is **open to families and people of all ages from 2-5 October 2025**. See the flyer in the entrance to the church. The program centres around putting the Gospel into practice in our daily lives. The venue is **MiCamp**, 100 Rawhira Rd, Turangi Contact **Gloria 022 193 1957 Mario 022 622 0170 Ian 022 544 3872 Feliz 021 205 1061**.

Care for Creation and Catholic Social Teaching - Save the date! The Commission extends an invitation to everyone interested in reflecting on **ecology, justice and peace to gather on Saturday 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria**. We will celebrate Mass, take time to share and reflect on issues of concern and Social Justice. We hope this will be a time of sharing and connecting. A plate of food to share would be appreciated. Enquiries to **Jim McAloon, jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz**

Malvina Major Anointing Mass: Wednesday 24 September 2 00pm, In the Chapel-Reflection Room.

Upcoming Communal and Liturgical Celebrations

We as a parish will celebrate our **Patronal Feast of St Francis of Assisi** on the weekend of **Saturday 4th/ Sunday 5th October**.

We will also celebrate a time of gratitude and sharing in the **pilgrimage and life of Meri Hōhepa, Venerable Suzanne Aubert**, and reflect on ourselves as pilgrims of Hope on the **weekend of Saturday 27th/Sunday 28th September**.

Feel free to note these dates in your diaries and watch this space as celebrations are developed!

CALLED & EQUIPPED Formation Programme -

Applications for 2026 now open!

Are you looking for an opportunity to dig deeper into your faith, and to learn how to share it with others? Would You like to know more about **what it means to be catholic?**

Do you want to **serve in your parish community, but feel you don't know enough?**

JOIN US on an exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service. For more information, contact **Lucienne Hensel** at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz / **04 496 1715**.

My Chains Are Gone - XLT Youth Worship 19th September 2025

. At **Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa, 7.00-9.00pm**. Come before Christ, the righteous and merciful chain-breaker, in a night of adoration, worship, and fellowship! Tell your friends, whānau, colleagues, and classmates - see you there!!

HOLY HOUR of adoration, reflection and prayer **7:30 - 8:30pm** at **Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon** on **Tuesday 23rd September** and every 4th Tuesday of the month.

Quote from Pope Leo 'This is the Christian paradox: God saves not by doing, but by letting himself do. Not by defeating evil with force, but by accepting the weakness of love to the very end. On the cross, Jesus teaches us that we do not realize ourselves in power, but in trustful openness to others, even when they are hostile and enemies. Salvation is not found in autonomy, but in humbly recognizing one's own need and in being able to express it freely... [this is] the original truth of our being: we are creatures made to give and receive love.' – Audience, 3 September 2025

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm **Email:** office@stfrancishariu.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.stfrancishariu.nz Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha

02-0524-0203642-00

Account name: **ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH**