



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty Ninth Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 18 October 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 45:1,4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21

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

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

Three messages in our Heads and Tails gospel for an Election Year

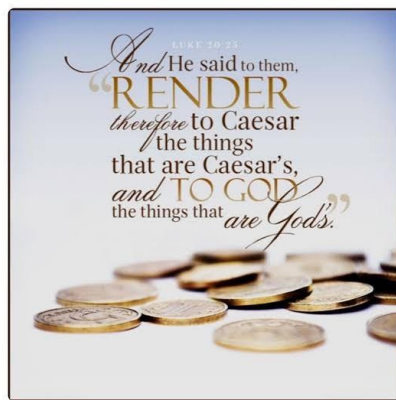
Firstly: Each of us carries God's imprint because every human being is made in the image of God. WOW! Breathe and wonder at the God who dwells within.

Secondly: Choose to see life through the lens of God's great love and render unto God your whole heart, mind, soul and strength. The God side of the coin shows we belong to God, the mystery and source of our lives. This foundational truth underpins our existence and our rights and responsibilities as people of Aotearoa New Zealand. This is the "heads" we all win side of the coin.

Thirdly on the Caesar/tails coin side we render unto our country a political vote (and taxes of course!). A personal vote backed on to Gods coin side and informed by the gospels and Catholic Social Teaching principles. Principles based on the common good and the recognition that everyone deserves love, hope, justice, dignity and healing. All are made in God's image -particularly the vulnerable, wounded, sick, homeless, suffering, abused and poor. Both sides are valid.

Let's pray with this gospel and try to discern how we can be wise and vote for love. The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference recent letter about the election may also provide some guidance. Look it up if you have a moment.

Kitty McKinley



Quote :

'The Church's mission is fulfilled also in contributing to the construction of the earthly city. However, her methods and aims are not primarily of a political order; rather, they consist in bearing witness to faith and charity, together with commitment for justice, peace, and fraternity. By worshipping Christ ... the believer cannot accept the oppression of the weak and the poor, nor the unjust structures that perpetuate conditions of dependence and injustice.'

Pope Leo XIV, General Audience, 7 October 2026

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS



Our annual Remembrance Mass will be on **Wednesday, 4 November, 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.

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.



Social Development Political Panel (Online) - Thursday, 22 October 2026 from 6.00pm - 7.30pm. The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) and the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit of the Salvation Army are hosting an online political panel ahead of the general election. Hear directly from political leaders about their priorities and vision for social development in New Zealand including our welfare system, employment and training supports and working with the community sector. There will be a number of pre-prepared questions and the opportunity for audience questions. Register and more information at: <https://social-development-political-panel-2026.lilregie.com>



World Mission Sunday: 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."** 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 .



Young Church Network Gathering 2026 - REIMAGINE - Dream Together - Shape Tomorrow

ADW Young Church invites youth leaders, coordinators, priests, teachers, parents, and anyone invested in youth ministry to unite and reimagine the future of our young church! Share your hopes, dreams, and ideas for our young people across the Archdiocese. Your voice is powerful, and together we can create change! **Saturday 31st October from 12noon - 4.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria.** BYO Lunch! We'll provide afternoon tea, so please fill out the RSVP form by email at: s.kentjana@cadw.nz to help us prepare.

World Youth Day 2027 (Seoul, South Korea)

Applications for the Wellington pilgrimage are open, closing on **Sat, 31 October at 11.59pm**. To apply or find out more, contact Susilo Kentjana at: s.kentjana@cadw.nz For pilgrimage details, FAQs, and applications, visit the World Youth Day 2027 Wellington Pilgrimage page on the Archdiocese of Wellington website.

Catholic Enquiry Centre - Hearts Aflame 2027 Scholarship:

CEC is supporting one young person to attend Hearts Aflame 2027 on a full scholarship which covers the school costs and deposit. Apply here: [CEC Hearts Aflame 2027 Scholarship Application](#)

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, 27 October (7.00pm - 8.15pm)**. To register, please email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Visit to Ngā Hau e Wha o Papararangi marae (9-10 Oct): About 26 parishioners came over the day/night to discover this marae in our midst. It was a great chance to get to know one another better, enjoy the incredible views, and do some learning about te ao Māori, te Tiriti o Waitangi, sing and pray together. An excellent way to complete our jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi in dialogue. Thanks to all who made the venture reality. The PPC will work on reflections from the gathering for SFOA's pastoral vision and plan.



School Holiday Programme : Over the Term 3 school break, the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Outreach Team with Hellen Tusiime as our new Outreach worker ran four exciting holiday programmes for young people in the parish community. 30 children from a wide range of cultural backgrounds came along. The first day centred around Kaitiakitanga – the value of guardianship over the environment and each other. The second day (1st Oct - Suzanne Aubert Day) involved celebrating Sister Cyprian's life of service and learning about Suzanne Aubert at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. The final two programmes were activity-packed afternoons with plenty of sunshine. In between teambuilding games, painting pots, learning about the environment, and planting sunflower seeds, we all enjoyed the sense of belonging to the wider SFOA community. A special thanks to our amazing youth volunteers, Anika Borthwick and Daniel Paul, to all others who assisted from the parish, and to the parents who enjoyed a break while their kids were busy on our programmes!

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.

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT: As the General Election nears **7 November 2026**, Catholics are encouraged to read the bishops' 2026 election statement, Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel lens. You can read it at: <https://bit.ly/NZCBC Election26> Our Catholic social teaching tradition values the right of all to participate in political affairs. **To vote , people must be enrolled by 25 October.** You can check that you are enrolled, or change your address, or enrol for the first time at: <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online>.

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Paulette McElroy , Pat Eller

Anniversary:



Prayers for the sick: Pope Leo, 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 Tafaese ,Moe Pio Tafaese, 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



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 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.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME :

We give thanks for the successful celebration of Reconciliation and Confirmation. Please continue to pray for our children as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion. **Scheduled: Session 1: 1 Nov, 11:15 am | Session 2 : 8 Nov, 11:15 am | Practice – 14 Nov, 2:00 pm | First Holy Communion Mass – 15 Nov, 2:00 pm. Volunteer Needed!!** We are 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



Columban Calendars 2027 – On Sale Now!

Get your Columban Calendar for **\$15**. If you're interested, please see the sacristan after Mass or contact parish office. Payment can be made by cash or pay online to: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH : 02-0524-0203642-00 with reference : calendar

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

