



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Fourth Sunday of Advent - 21 December 2025, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14 ; Romans 1:1-7 ; Matthew 1:18-25

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns
g.burns@wn.catholic.org.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: 10am Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue & Wed : **NO** Weekday Mass

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

Important Dates

Christmas Eve

24 December :

5.10 pm Carol, 5.30 pm Mass
8.00 pm Carol , 8.30 pm Mass

Christmas Day

25 December Mass at 10 am

New Year Day

1 January Mass at 9 am

Weekday Masses Schedule for January 2026

NO Weekday Mass on Tuesday
Wednesday Mass/Liturgy: 9:00 am (no morning tea)

Reflections

Dear parishioners,

We have all been horrified this week by the attack on the Hannukah gathering in Bondi beach. As I write this all the motivations for the attack are not known but the reality of the massacre is evident. Our prayers go to the Jewish community in Australia and everywhere.

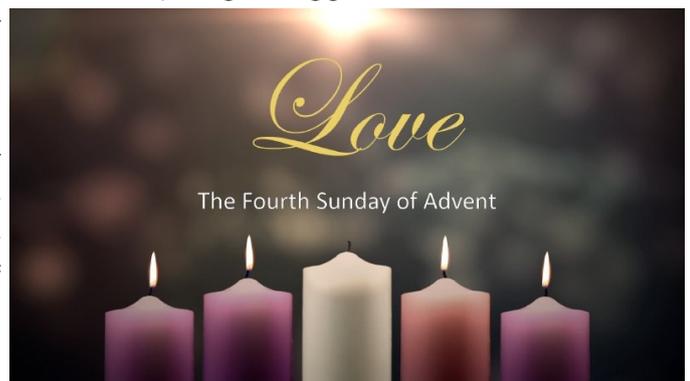
In Advent we walk with a young Jewish couple on their journey to Bethlehem. We recognize in the birth of a Jewish boy the Son of God becoming flesh. There is no room in our faith practice or belief for anti-Jewish views. Our faith is grounded in the Hebrew scriptures as well as the New Testament.

I use the term 'anti-Jewish' instead of 'anti-semitic' because Jewish people are only one part of the family of semitic peoples. Israel's Prime Minister accused Australia of fuelling anti-Jewish sentiment by recognizing a Palestinian state. This is a tactic to make the state of Israel represent all Jewish people and make a Palestinian state automatically a threat to all Jewish people. While emotive this is not a logical argument.

Criticism of Israel as a state does not equal being anti-Jewish. That would make many Israelis and Jewish people anti-Jewish themselves. This is ridiculous and a using of the lives of those who died in Bondi for a spurious political purpose. It ignores the multi-pronged aggression of Israeli armed forces in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and other places.

The birth of Jesus Christ should help us recognize truth and act on it for the peace and protection of all.

Msgr Gerard Burns



Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Sebastiao Felipe Colaco (father of Severina)

Anniversary: Tom O'Donnell , Valerie Smith , Francisca Gonsalves

Prayers for the sick: Patricia Keane, 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, 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 latest information visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisoHariu.nz>



24 December 2025 – Christmas Eve

5:10 pm Christmas Carol — 5:30 pm Mass
8:00 pm Christmas Carol — 8:30 pm Mass

25 December 2025 – Christmas Day

Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 am

27–28 December 2025

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

1 January 2026 – New Year's Day

New Year's Day Mass—9.00 am

Weekend Masses throughout January 2026

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

Weekday Masses Schedule for January 2026

NO Weekday Mass on Tuesday
Wednesday Mass/Liturgy: 9:00 am (no morning tea)

*** Weekday Masses on Tuesday 5:30pm and Wednesday 11:00am will resume from 1 February 2026**

Thank You to Our Parish Community

With generous help from parishioners, including those at Malvina Major, and helped by a sizeable injection of cash from The Trusts Community Foundation, Saint Vincent de Paul bought additional groceries from Newlands New World and filled Christmas hampers for people who might otherwise have missed out. 67 hampers were filled for 62 families consisting of 201 people, over half of them children. St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 shared delivery of hampers. Hampers were packed on Sunday 7th December in the library at St Brigid's School. This happened aided by gifts from parishioners. Thank you.

Children's Liturgy: NO Children's Liturgy this weekend and during the holiday period. Sessions will resume on **15 February 2026**.

Parish Office – End of Year Notice

The last day for the Parish Office in 2025 is **Thursday, 18 Dec**. The office will reopen on **Tuesday, 20 January 2026**.



Explore Life, Faith & Meaning – Try Alpha!

Join us for informal conversations about faith, connection, and what truly matters. Whether you're new to the Church or a lifelong Catholic, Alpha is a refreshing way to explore and renew your faith. Bring a friend!

Starts: **Tuesday, 3rd February 2026** at our parish. For more information, please contact us at: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

A heartfelt thank you from Anna's whānau

Kia Orana

Daryl, Royanna and Rose would like to express their deep and sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. The outpouring of aroha and tautoko received, since their much-loved Wife and Mum, Anna, died on the 30th of November, was phenomenal. The support given to them, during the past few years of Anna's health journey, has also been considerable. They will continue to be in awe of Anna's ability to bring people together through her faith, hard work and generosity of spirit.

Meitaki.

Anna Maria Mika-Hunt Walsh - Moe mai Rā

Moving Forward Together: St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Update

As our parish continues to grow together it is time to take the next steps towards unifying onto a single church site. These processes are significant, and we are committed to moving forward with care to build a welcoming place for all. To fund this vision, the Archbishop approved the sale of the deconsecrated **St. Benedict's Khandallah** property (December 2025).

- ◆ **Honouring the Legacy:** We value the legacy of St. Benedict's and ask for your constructive guidance as we plan the future.
- ◆ **Sale & Reinvestment:** The sale is planned for **early 2026**. Proceeds will be reinvested into the parish and development of the new church (post consultation).
- ◆ **Consultation:** We will begin consultation on the new place of worship, sharing a framework for this process in **early February 2026**.

Thank you for your engagement and we hope for your continued involvement as we embark on this journey of renewal and growth. **We look forward to building this new chapter of faith together.**

The Parish Leadership Committee (Clergy, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance and Property committee)

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE: All are welcome to the closing Mass for the Archdiocese of Wellington, which will be celebrated **at 10.00am, Sunday 28 December 2025 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.**

Quote from Pope Leo :

'Let no one be lost! Let all be saved! This is what our God wants, this is his Kingdom, and this is the goal of his actions in the world. As Christmas approaches, we too want to embrace more strongly his dream, while being steadfast and faithful in our commitment. We know that even in the face of the greatest challenges, we are not alone: the Lord is near, he walks with us, and with him at our side, something beautiful and joyful will always happen.'

Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 14 December 2025

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Parish Office is now CLOSED until 19 January 2026

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**

