



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 21 September 2025, Year C  
Readings: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

**Parish Priest**  
Msgr Gerard Burns

[g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Alfred Tong

[Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz](mailto:Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz)

**Parish Office Hours**  
04 478 7137  
Mon to Thursday  
8.30am—2.30pm  
[Office@stfrancisochariu.nz](mailto:Office@stfrancisochariu.nz)

## Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil  
Mass**

**Sun 10am Mass**

Tue:  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation  
11.00am Mass with  
Morning Tea

Thurs 5.30pm Liturgy with  
Communion

**\*\*suspended\*\***

Fri: 8.30am Exposition &  
9.00am Liturgy with  
Communion

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

## Dear Parishioners

Some of you will know I was part of a protest 'sit-in' this week at the local electorate office of Minister of Finance, Nicola Willis. This advocacy was to encourage the government to place sanctions on Israel for its destruction of Gaza and ethnic cleansing of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The World Court is considering the charge of genocide. I do not support in any way the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023. I advocate for the release of both Israeli and Palestinian hostages. I consider the Israeli army actions in Gaza at least to be crimes against humanity, backed by the USA. NZ may be complicit through military and technological links to Israel. While most Palestinians are Muslim, there is also Holy Family parish in Gaza city, sheltering 450 people including many disabled and elderly people. The Israeli army is currently attacking there.



With some Anglican and Baptist clergy we sought to peacefully occupy the electorate office. We wanted to seek a meeting with this senior government MP to speak about sanctions. Failing to enter the office we sat outside for 2 days and a night chained to the door. A small action in the face of a genocide but a graced time of prayer, conversations, and solidarity.

There are many conflicts in the world which need resolving and peace. I can do something about this one because: I've visited the Holy Land including Gaza and the West Bank. I've received food and warm hospitality from Palestinians in Gaza. I owe them manaakitanga. I've studied the ancient and modern history of the area and recognize the many injustices done to Palestinians for over 100 years. As a Catholic, I want to assist the people sheltering in Holy Family Catholic parish in Gaza. As a priest, seeking to follow Jesus' example and the social teaching of my Church, I'm called to act for my fellow human beings.

**Fr Gerard Burns.**

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased:** Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Joseph Cayanana (12/9)

**Anniversaries:** .John Collier , Ray Vaughan (20/9).

**Prayers for the sick,** Melani Liliawati, Isabel Zamorano F, Patricia Keane, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'l, 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>

**Holiday Programme: Challenge 2000** will be running a holiday programme on **Monday 22nd September**. This will be held from **10am-2pm** at the **St Francis of Assisi Church Hall**. It'll be a fun day with lots of games, activities and crafts! The programme is for **children aged 5 years and up**, and cost is \$5 per child. To sign up, please email [gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz)

**Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarships 2026** applications still open . Applications close: **Monday 6 October 2025, 12pm**. <https://compassion.org.nz/suzanne-aubert/scholarships/>.

**Cardinal McKeefry School:** Final celebration and Mass for our school closure—**Saturday 18th October**. Celebrations will **start at school from 3pm**. **Final Mass at 6:00pm, St Thomas More Church, Wilton**. All enquiries to [ad-](mailto:ad-)

**Hope & Renewal Summit 3-4 Oct:** May the Holy Spirit avail peace, freedom, and restoration . <http://hoperenewalsummit.com> [hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz).

**Come & See Vocations Morning - Saturday 18 October** from **9.30am till 12.30pm @ St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie**. Are you thinking about priesthood? Join other like-minded young men for a morning of reflection, discussion and fellowship. Text **021 164 5800** or email [l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision** - register online now on the Archdiocesan website for the next Course, **consecutive Sundays 2 & 9 November 10.00am-4.00pm, St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie**. Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. This will be the last course for 2025. First course 2026 in March [marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz)

**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.

**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 connecting. A plate of food to share would be appreciated. Enquiries to **Jim McAloon, [jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz)**

### **Upcoming Communal and Liturgical Celebrations**

We will celebrate our **Patronal Feast of St Francis of Assisi** on the weekend of **Saturday 4th/Sunday 5th October**. For **10am Mass Sun 5th Oct**, Come in your favourite animal onesie, dress as something from Creation, or bring your favourite animal toy for a blessing.

We will also celebrate a time of gratitude and sharing in the **pilgrimage and life of Meri Hōhepa, Venerable Suzanne Aubert**, weekend of **Saturday 27th/Sunday 28th September**. See <https://compassion.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Final-Celebration-Sunday-Brochure-Pages.pdf> for Celebration resources.

### **ALLED & 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](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz) / **04 496 1715**.

**Local Elections and Housing Issues:** The **EJP Commission's report** for housing in local elections : <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/housing-and-local-government-elections/>.

**Anointing Mass—Malvina Major . 2pm Wed 24th September**, Chapel-Reflection Room.

The **Sisters of St. Peter Claver** are holding a shared fundraising dinner, **Saturday 11th October 2025 , 6.00pm at St. Anne's Catholic Church Hall , 22 Emmett Street**, Tickets from the Sisters or at entrance to the hall. Please bring your favourite Dish. Purchasing the tickets prior to 11th October encouraged. **04 383 8401 [peterclaver@xtra.co.nz](mailto:peterclaver@xtra.co.nz)**

**Quote from Pope Leo** "Just as there is personal pain, so too there is the collective pain in our own day. Entire populations are crushed by the weight of violence, hunger and war, and they cry out for peace. This immense cry challenges us to pray, take action to end all violence, and bring peace to those who suffer. Above all, it pleads with God, whose heart trembles with compassion, to bring his Kingdom. The true consolation we must offer to those around us is showing that peace is possible, and that it grows within each of us, if we do not stifle it". – **Homily, 15 September 2025.**"

### **Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville**

**Office Hours** Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm **Email:** [office@stfrancisochariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisochariu.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.stfrancisochariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisochariu.nz) Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ochariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha

**02-0524-0203642-00**

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