



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

The Solemnity of Christ the King - 23 November 2025, Year C
Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-3 ; Colossians 1:12-20 ; Luke 23:35-43

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 : 9.15am St Brigid's Liturgy

5.00pm Reconciliation

5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation

11.00am Mass with

morning tea

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

Important Dates

Malvina Major Anointing Mass

Wed, 26 November at 2.00pm
(preparing for Advent)

1st Sunday of Advent

30 November

Advent Pilgrimage of Hope

13 December

Reflections

"He saved others, yet he cannot save himself" showcases how fearful humans are of their physical lives being lost. A projected mockery, in fact, of one's own fears of death. It's as if being saved is a consumer product that we can pay a fee and get, that takes away all inconvenience and regret. And once we have this product - then what?

There's a t-shirt from an online manufacturer that reads "Jesus saves", with a smiling image of Jesus holding a floppy disk or USB memory stick in his hand. The idea of saving your work meant that you no longer needed to worry about losing your documents. You can email the document to yourself, store it on Google drive.

That is until a hacker erases all your copies. Then your greatest fear becomes reality again - you can't hand in that assignment. You'll probably try the "sir - the dog ate my homework" trick in class too.

So the image of Jesus on a t-shirt doesn't save you from your files from being hacked, or facing difficulties or challenges in your life.

The good thief crucified on Jesus' side recognised the beauty of transformation - a journey beyond physical loss and death. He rebuked the bad thief - "Have you no fear of God at all". To die is to lose all possibility and sense that the Creative God is with you, and nothing can be new. However, to fear here is to marvel in wonder that the Creator will raise us up to the best version of ourselves - even with a life lived with regret.

When God saves, we are promised not a consumer product, but through our initiation as priests, prophets and kings/queens, we are promised to become the image of Jesus' kingship - that of love, compassion, trust and generosity. That is when the whole Body of Christ - all of Creation - will find fulfillment.

Fr Alfred Tong

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Indumathie Peiris & Malraj Peiris , Wilfred Peiris & Michael Peiris

Prayers for the sick: Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen Godinez, Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh, 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>



First Holy Communion : We warmly congratulate all the children who received their **First Holy Communion on Sunday, 16 November 2025!** May this joyful milestone be filled with God's blessings, and may your faith continue to grow and shine brightly. We also extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to **the entire Sacramental Programme Team.** Thank you for your dedication, patience, and tireless efforts in preparing the children throughout the year. May God's blessings be abundant!

Nativity Display
On **Saturday the 6 December 2025 at 10am** a series of nativity displays from around the world will be set up in the foyer of the church. Please bring your nativity set to display or just come and help us set up the display.

Christmas Hampers – St Vincent de Paul
Help families in need this Christmas! Please donate sweet treats (tinned fruit, chocolates, biscuits) by the end of Vigil Mass on **Saturday, 6 December.** Hampers will be packed in early December.

Marian Mothers : This month's meeting will be held on **Friday, 28 November** at the St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish meeting room **at 10:00 AM.** The reflection will be "Fr Colin: A Friend and Guide." All women are welcome. For further information or transport assistance, please contact [Joanne at 021 043 6856.](mailto:Joanne@stfrancisohariu.nz)

ALLED & EQUIPPED Formation Programme
Applications Close: **30 November 2025**
Deepen your faith, learn to share it, and serve your parish community! For more info, contact **Lucienne Hensel** at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz / 04 496 1715, or speak with your Parish Priest.

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision - register online on the Archdiocesan website for the next course, consecutive **Sundays, 1 and 8 March 2026.** Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. Courses are offered four times a year - they will run in March, June, September and November 2026. For queries please email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

A pilgrimage of Hope! Saturday 13 December 2025! This advent, as a parish we are undertaking a pilgrimage to some of the Holy Sites: **Our Lady's Home of Compassion, Island Bay** and **Sacred Heart Cathedral Thorndon.** It will be a time to **reflect** on the themes for advent 2025: **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.** We plan to leave from St Francis of Assisi (Dr Taylor Terrace) **by 9 am** and return by **12.30 pm.** In the evening after **5 pm Vigil Mass,** we will complete the pilgrimage with a dinner and carols in the church hall at St Francis of Assisi. Invite your family, friends, co-workers... More details to come

Theology on Tap is back on again at the Sprig & Fern, Thorndon! Come and enjoy a cold drink and good food and learn **about Ignatian Spirituality! Monday, 24 November at 6:00pm**
P.S We would **appreciate** no outside food and drink - instead please support Sprig & Fern for hosting us by getting a cheeky bite and bevy from the bar!



LAST VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR for 2025! JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on **Tuesday, 25 November.**

Christmas 5:30pm Family Mass – Nativity Presentation
At the Christmas Eve Family Mass, we will have a special nativity slide presentation featuring parish children.
Photo session: After the 10am Mass on Sunday, 30 November, children who want to participate are invited to stay for photos in the church. Costumes will be provided, or children may bring their own. Each participant will receive a small gift. Parents are welcome to stay and take photos during the session.

Advent Reflection & Columban Calendars – On Sale Now! For both, see the sacristan after Mass.
Advent Reflections – \$8 ; Columban Calendar – \$15

Quote from Pope Leo :
'Today, scenarios of war, unfortunately present in various regions of the world, seem especially to confirm that we are in a state of helplessness. Yet the globalization of helplessness arises from a lie, from believing that history has always been this way and cannot change. The Gospel, on the other hand, reminds us that it is precisely in the upheavals of history that the Lord comes to save us. And today, as a Christian community, together with the poor, we must become a living sign of this salvation.'

Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 15 November 2025

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**

