



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, 24 August, Year C

Readings: Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13; Luke 13:22-30

## 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)



## Everyone is Welcome'

We are all invited to the banquet of God's kingdom where we will be seated with people from nations the world over. (Isaiah 66—Today's first reading).

So that we can dine amicably and with a sense of safety, we will most likely need to take stock of the values and beliefs that underpin our attitudes and influence our behaviours.

Do we bring peace and unity into our relationships with ourselves and with others or do we cause division and conflict because of our words and actions?

We are blessed with the presence of Jesus in our world who has shown us the way and who in loving us teaches us how to live the 'Jesus Way', by lovingly and firmly disciplining us when we stray. In this way we will be steadied and our limbs strengthened. (Hebrews 12. Today's second reading).

The ticket into the heavenly banquet contains the qualities of peace and unity that the world alone does not give. (Luke 13. Today's gospel).

How do we ensure that we will be admitted to the banquet? How do we help bring about the Kingdom of God in our war-torn and hurting world? Jesus tells us "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!"

Let us today 'try our best' to live the way that Jesus has shown us – a way of love that brings peace and unity into our world.

**Judy McCormack**

## Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**

**Sun 10am Mass**

Tue: 9.15am St Brigid's  
Liturgy Tui Syndicate  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation  
11.00am Mass &  
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

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased:** George Agius, Michael Vincent Boland

**Anniversaries:** Azucena Yu Perez (23/8). Yvonne Ranasinge, Freddie Dias, Yvette Hermon.

**Remembrance in Prayer:** Doris Bose .

**Prayers for the sick,** 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, 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 more information please visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisochariu.nz>

### **The Spirituality of Generosity -**

For the last four weeks at Mass, we have explored why and how we give to the work of our local Church. Generosity lies at the heart of discipleship and the life of a family: our immediate family, our parish community, our Archdiocese, and our wider Church in this country and universally. God calls all of us collectively to ministry and mission—to reach out. Our gift to the Church unites and welcomes all our brothers and sisters to the eternal banquet, both here and further afield.

We are **Christians by our generosity**. Faith is free, but not cheap. And Christianity is not just a slogan we buy on teeshirts or mugs!

There are many ways to give, especially through **Planned Gifting**. These include cash in the plate during the Mass, giving through the envelope system, giving by automatic payment, giving by direct debit, giving by a one off donation with a bank transfer or leaving a bequest. If you wish to give, here are the bank details for St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish:

**02-0524-0203642-00**  
Account name: **ARCHDIO OF WGTN  
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH**

Please feel free to take one of the parish planned giving forms with you from the church foyer. If you have any questions, about giving or how to sign up, **a member of the Finance Committee and the Parish Council will be available after each Mass during August.**

**COME & SEE VOCATIONS MORNING - Saturday 30 August** from **9.00am till 12noon @ St Teresa's Church, Karori.** Are you thinking about priesthood? Starts with Mass at 9.00am at St Teresa's Church, Karori.  
Text **021 164 5800** or email [l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz) to let us know you're coming!

**SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK** - The New Zealand bishops have published their annual Social Justice Statement. It supports the celebration of Social Justice Week, which **this year runs from September 7-13.** The theme for this year's week is **"Let's Build Peace Together"**. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has produced resources to support Social Justice Week, including in schools and parishes. Find the bishops' message and the resources at: <https://bit.ly/2025SJW>

**Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic (OCIA or Candidacy)?** The parish is still accepting expressions of interest for **Catholics Initiation (OCIA)** or **have been baptised but wish to obtain Confirmation/First Eucharist.** [ocia@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:ocia@stfrancisohariu.nz)

### **A Pilgrimage of Hope to Hāto Mere/St Mary's,**

**Pukekaraka, Otaki, Sunday, 31st August. Ngati Kapu** invites all parishes of the Archdiocese to **Pukekaraka**, sited at **4 Convent Rd, Otaki.** We will **depart in car convoy/vans** from SFOA at **11.30am** for an early arrival and gathering at marae. **Gather outside church at SFOA. If anyone going with spare space let parish office [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz) know.** Pōwhiri at **1 pm.** **Return home approx. 3.30/4pm.** Programme includes sharing aspects of Māori, Marist and Marian history and spirituality through talks, prayer, time to experience the spirit of Pukekaraka. Come with a special hope or prayer on paper to be buried under a tree planted to commemorate this Jubilee Year. **Parking also available in the school and church grounds** (for early arrivals) or along **Te Rauparaha Street.** **For more information and to indicate your presence contact [pukekaraka1@gmail.com](mailto:pukekaraka1@gmail.com).**

### **Referendum on Māori wards during the local elections:**

Many **city councils** and some **regional councils** will be holding referendums during the **coming local body elections, Sept-Oct 2025.** **Common Grace Aotearoa ecumenical movement** has produced ***Belonging in this Land*** to enable learning about the Māori wards system. It is designed to create space for curious, gracious and informed conversations in group or parish settings, grounded in the Christian faith tradition and guided by tangata whenua. [commongrace.nz/maoriwards](http://commongrace.nz/maoriwards)

The parish is keen to look for opportunities for us to gather together in discussion about this Referendum Contact [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz) or: Mons. Gerard Burns ([g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz)) of the ADW EJP Commission

**From St Brigid's School:** A gentle reminder that users of the St Brigid's school playground for carparking for weekend mass services **cannot drive over the grass areas.** The **impact** and **weight** of vehicles damage the soil foundations. The school is looking to renew these grass areas for the benefit of all. **Thank you for your generous gift of cooperation and patience when parking**

**Quote from Pope Leo** 'Let us not be afraid to choose life! It may seem risky and imprudent. Many voices whisper: "Why bother? Let it go. Think of your own interests." These are voices of death. But we are disciples of Christ. It is his love that drives us — soul and body — in our time. As individuals and as the Church, we no longer live for ourselves. This — and only this — spreads life and lets life prevail. Our victory over death begins here and now.' – *Homily, 15 August 2025.*

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

**Office Hours** Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm **Email:** [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto: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](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha

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