



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Thirtieth Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 25 October 2026, Year A
Readings: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40

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

Reflection

The past weeks had been emotionally intense for me. A beloved friend was diagnosed with cancer, another went through emotional distress and desolation, and another died to cancer complications. Never had I cried so much in prayer for others. Those were times of compassion; moments when I allowed myself to be vulnerable to love for others.



JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD
WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL
THY MIND. THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT. AND
THE SECOND IS LIKE UNTO IT, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR
AS THYSELF.
MATTHEW 22:37-39 KJV

Amazingly, it was during those times – the house and hospital visits, the hugs and embraces, and the quiet holding of their hands – when I felt God's presence the strongest.

As Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, "true love is giving and giving until it hurts; and if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love." Indeed, where there is love, there is God. Where there

is God, there is love.

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees asked Jesus what commandment is the greatest. Jesus' response was simple. Love. Love is not simply the greatest of it all but the centre of it all.

Ning Ibarra

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

28 October 2026

Malvina Major: Anointing
Mass 2pm

2 November 2026

All Souls Day Mass at 5.30
pm

4 November 2026

Remembrance Mass at
7.00 pm

Quote :

'Created in the image of the Creator, our own work in some way continues his, for thereby we contribute to the progress of society and the common good, put to good use the capabilities we have received, improve and beautify the world, support our families, engage in cooperative relationships and, through listening and dialogue, learn to build together something that no one could achieve alone.'

Pope Leo XIV, Magnifica Humanitas, #148.

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** : dobsonkatharina@gmail.com or ring her on **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.



LIFE TEEN SUMMER CAMP 2027

Life Teen Summer Camp Aotearoa is being held in Rotorua **from 12-16 January 2027**. Life Teen is a Catholic youth ministry, and Summer Camp focuses on leading teens closer to Christ. This happens through prayer experiences, the Sacraments, community, and lots of fun. We have the opportunity to take a group of young people from our parish. If you will be at college next year, we'd love to have you join this group - email Caroline at willandcaro2025@gmail.com for more information. To check out photos and videos from previous camps, go to instagram @lifeteenaotearoanz or <https://lifeteen.nz/>

From Parish Liturgy Committee :

From time to time the Liturgy Committee will explain an aspect of our weekend worship which may be of concern or interest to you. If you have a question or clarification for the committee to consider, please send it through the parish office.

"Ordinary Time": This word is linked to the Latin "ordo", which means "numbered".

It is not "plain", in the usual interpretation of the word, but rather an opportunity to focus on the teachings and life of Christ, outside of the major feasts.

Malvina Major

Anointing Mass on **Wednesday 28 October** at 2.00 pm - Chapel- Reflection Room

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS

The All Souls' Day Mass will be held on **Monday, 2 November 2026 at 5:30 PM at St Francis Of Assisi Ohariu Church**. All are welcome to attend and pray for the souls of the departed.

Girls' Brigade Johnsonville has spaces available this term! A fun, welcoming Christian group where girls make friends, build confidence, learn new skills and explore their faith.

Thursdays, 6:30-8pm during term time at Johnsonville Uniting Church.

INVITATION TO PRAY THE ROSARY

Every Friday at 2.00 pm—3.00 pm, at Wanaka St (Brigidine Chapel). Everyone are welcome. Although the Brigidine Chapel on Wanaka Street is closed until further notice, the Rosary Prayer Group will continue to meet every Friday as usual.

Notice to Parishioners: Water Pipe Upgrade

Parishioners are advised that Tiaki Wai will begin construction works along Broderick Road on **Monday, 2 November**, from 8:00 am to upgrade a major drinking water pipe supplying Johnsonville. The works may cause traffic disruptions and weekday construction noise. Please allow extra time for travel and take care when travelling through the area.

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

HOLY HOUR for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! 7.30 - 8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on **Tuesday, 27 October and Tuesday, 24 November (final one for the year).**

ELECTION WEBINAR – Wednesday, 28 October: The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference is hosting a webinar to unpack the bishops' 2026 election statement, Discerning Our Nation's Future Through a Gospel Lens. **Join Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM, Catholic Family Support Services Hamilton Manager Renee Rewi and Trinity Catholic College Principal Kate Nicholson live at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 28 October.** The conversation will examine how faith can inform participation in public life and help shape a society that upholds human dignity, promotes justice and serves the common good. Learn more and register at: <https://bit.ly/NZCBCelection>

World Youth Day 2027 (Seoul, South Korea) is an incredible opportunity for young adults aged 18-35 years old to join millions of young Catholics from around the world for a life-changing pilgrimage of faith, friendship, and mission. **Applications for the Wellington pilgrimage are now open and close on Saturday, 31 October at 11.59pm.** To apply or find out more, contact Susilo Kentjana at: s.kentjana@cadw.nz For pilgrimage details, FAQs, and application information, visit the World Youth Day 2027 Wellington Pilgrimage page on the Archdiocese of Wellington website. Come and be part of this unforgettable journey!

COME & SEE VOCATIONS MORNING for young men wanting to explore a vocation to the priesthood. 9.00am to 12.30pm on Saturday, 21 November Our Lady of Hope Church, Main Road, Tawa. 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@cadw.nz to let us know you're coming!

CALLED & EQUIPPED Adult Formation Programme 2027



JOIN US...

...on an exciting formation journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry.



Dig deeper into your faith

Learn how to share faith with others

Delve into Church teaching

Applications close 15th December 2026
Email: l.hensel@cadw.nz
Archdiocese of Wellington



CALLLED & EQUIPPED Formation Programme 2027 - Applications 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? **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!** JOIN US on this exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service. For more information, contact:

Lucienne Hensel at: l.hensel@cadw.nz / 04 496 1715 or speak to your Parish Priest. **Applications close on Tuesday, 15 December 2026**

Join us for Greccio : The Song, a new musical inspired by St. Francis of Assisi and the first living Nativity at Greccio, celebrating the Franciscan Jubilee and 60 years of friendship between New Zealand and the Philippines. Featuring music by NZ composers and Filipino Franciscan friars, with **our parishioner JL IBARRA as Bro. Leo. Saturday, 5 December , Allan Gibbs Centre, Wellington College 2:00 pm matinee and 7:30 pm evening show.** Family concessions and group bookings available. Book now: <https://events.humanitix.com/greccio-the-song?c=adw-stfrancisofassisi> Support our parish! Scan the parish QR code or book through the link above. Our parish receives 25% of net ticket sales from bookings made through this link or QR code. Enquiries: vineyardhouse.nz@gmail.com



Remembering the Holy Souls



Recently Deceased : Mary Slowey , Sr Helena Fouhy, Peter Crompton

Anniversary: Ellen de Joux , Santaninho Rodrigues , Antonio Oliveira , Dominic and Anthony Campbell

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'l, 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 . Please contact Katrina and Billie by email: baptism@stfrancisohariu.nz

BAPTISMS on 17 and 18 October 2026:

We warmly welcome into our parish community: Elianna Anyanwu, Koda Levi Siolo and Olivia Evangeline-Rose Sales Kirkby. May the Lord's abundant blessings be with you always.

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.

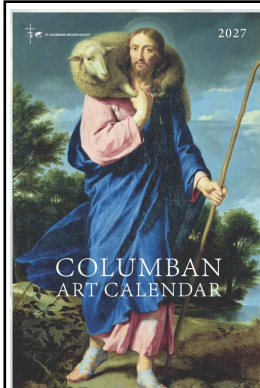
CHILDREN LITURGY :

There will be **NO Children's Liturgy on 25 October , 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



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

