



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 20 July 2025, Year C
Readings: Genesis 18:20-21; Colossians 2:6-14; Gospel Luke 11:1-13.

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 Thursday

8.30am—2.30pm

Office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun 10am Mass

Tue: 9.15 **St Brigid's Grandparent's Mass**
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

That first reading really does show up God's patience.- six times Abraham goes back to God asking for mercy for Sodom and Gomorrah – and six times God listens to his pleas and backtracks. In human terms I can picture God muttering under His breath "For heaven's sake Abraham, will you just lay your offer on the table and I'll say YES – but just don't push your luck – I'll back down only so far. And besides I cannot find even ten good men in this city" – but below this figure God deals with individuals – Lot and his wife and so on.

Now , as we know, God's Love and Mercy are endless, bounteous and yet here is God saying "Enough, I can tolerate this no more and I WILL NOT show my mercy any more. BUT I will show that I am a just God" – just in the sense that good gets rewarded and evil gets punished

The Exilic Jews were much concerned with justice and righteousness from their god and this is, perhaps, why Abraham continues to probe God to seek the limits of His justice – is He really a God who will treat just and unjust according to their behaviour?

The Old Testament spoke of God "And God's anger blazed forth' God's anger is not random or unjust – it's a response to the choices made by individuals and communities when they stray from His commands and embrace sin and immorality

God's discipline is a sign of His Love – It's a reminder that He is just and desires for us to live rightly – in the face of rebellious hearts God still reaches out -He doesn't give up on us – there is always hope in turning back to God.

So – God is there as the final arbiter of good and bad, of just and unjust but always willing to forgive and forget. Always carry that thought with you – God is ALWAYS with you even when you're not with Him: even when you've forgotten Him, He hasn't forgotten you.

Tony de Joux

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Luisita Orale Naval, Shaun McElwee

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.stfrancisohariu.nz>

Sacramental Programme 2025

The first session for reconciliation will be **this Sunday 27th July**, and we warmly welcome all participants and their families to attend 10am Sunday Mass beforehand. For queries please email the Parish Office sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

Please note that the ***Confirmation Mass will now be held at 6pm Sunday 14 September**

Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic (OCIA or Candidacy)?

The parish is accepting expressions of interest from anyone wanting to know more about our Catholic faith, wanting to be baptised Catholics (OCIA) or have been baptised but wish to obtain Confirmation and First Eucharist. Whether they are already sure or still thinking about it, we'd love to hear from them! They can email office@stfrancisohariu.nz or call the parish office at **04 478 7137** with their names and contact numbers.

Children's Liturgy

Please note there will be **no children's Liturgy** on the **27th July, 3rd and 10th August** to allow for the Sacramental Programme.

An **English Conversation practice group** will run from 1-2:15pm on Fridays, and will give people a chance to practice speaking English and knowing others in the community.

The first meeting will be next **Friday, 1st of August** at **1 Wanaka Street**.

If you know of anyone who may be interested and who may benefit from taking part, please contact **Gabrielle Lawson** gabriellelawson@challenge2000.org.nz

Grandparents Mass

9:15 am, Tuesday 29th July, St Francis of Assisi Parish

Come to celebrate and honour all grandparents and older community members!

Johnsonville Combined Churches Op Shop

We are looking for some new volunteers for the op shop. If you could spare a couple of hours once a month for your church group, your time would be much appreciated. Please contact ycelliston@gmail.com if you are able to help.

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation

– Love is a Decision - online registration for the next course on the Archdiocesan website, consecutive Sundays **7th & 14th Sept 10am-4pm** held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Please register early as there are limited spaces and in case you need to defer.

Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. Email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

Come to a **session with David Wells** on **Friday 29 August, 10am-12pm** which will be held at St Joseph's Church at Mount Victoria. The cost is \$10 per head, which includes morning tea. David will be discussing the topic, **"Hope does not disappoint! Exploring the virtue of hope in our Jubilee year."**

Jubilee of Youth - Late Night Mass for Young People

Come celebrate the Jubilee of Youth with the Archdiocese at the Late Night Mass! Join us at Sacred Heart Cathedral at **8pm on August 1st** to celebrate the Eucharist together with Archbishop Paul.

From Galileo to Laudato Si':

A free talk by **Br Guy Consolmagno SJ**, Director of the Vatican Observatory on **"From Gallileo to Laudato Si': Why Science Needs Faith"**. **Wednesday 6 August from 6-7.30pm**, Rutherford House, 33 Bunny Street, Wellington. You can register: www.eventbrite.co.nz or by clicking on the [RSVP](#) link if you want to attend in person or the [Zoom](#) if you want to attend online.

Tindall Foundation Funding – Applications Now Open - catholicsocialservices.org.nz/tindall/

What's happening around the Diocese? <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>

Quote from Pope Leo Our relationship with God comes first. Although it is true that we must live out our faith through concrete actions, faithfully carrying out our duties according to our state of life and vocation, it is essential that we do so only after meditating on the Word of God and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to our hearts. We should set aside moments of silence, moments of prayer, times in which, quieting noise and distractions, we recollect ourselves before God in simplicity of heart. This is a dimension of the Christian life that we particularly need to recover today, both as a value for individuals and communities, and as a prophetic sign for our times. Pope Leo XIV, [Homily](#), 20 July 2025

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm

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

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

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha

02-0524-0203642-00

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