



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28 June 2026, Year A
Readings: 2Kings 4:8-11,14-16; Romans 6:3-4,8-11; Matthew 10:37-42

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns
g.burns@cadw.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong
alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz

Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm
office@stfrancisochariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10am Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 9.15am St Brigid's School
Mass

5.00pm Reconciliation

5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30am Reconciliation

11.00am Mass followed by
morning tea

Thurs: 11.30am St Benedict's
School Mass

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

Holy Hour/Adoration every

Wednesday at 7.00 pm

Reflection

As a first-time Newsletter reflection contributor, I seem to have landed on a tricky one. "Whoever loves father or mother... (and) son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me..." I closed my eyes and thought of my dad and mum. Then I thought of my two sons. Then Jesus. Now, I must choose? No, that must be wrong. So, I read on.

A couple of weeks ago, we heard how Jesus called his twelve disciples and sent them out on mission to heal and bring hope. Last week, he reminded them to not be afraid but remain steadfast in their mission. Today, as people sent on that same mission, Jesus reminds us to be cautious of relationships that hinder our spiritual growth or prevent us from living out our baptismal call to holiness, service, and stewardship. Instead of them pulling us away from our faith and the church, let them be our mission.



The rest of the Readings assure us that if the disciples open their hearts to God, they will be rewarded with blessings beyond material wealth. For the missionaries and ministers of the Good News, the reward is everlasting life with Christ. What a deal! That means we get to choose them all.

Ning Ibarra

Important Dates

30 June 2026

Sacramental Programme Parents
Session at 7.00 pm

14 July 2026

Liturgy Committee meeting at
7.00 pm

St. Benedict's Church Sale updates and Consultation draft report

Following the amalgamation of 3 northern suburbs parishes in 2016, the parish decided to consolidate onto one church site. As part of this process, St Benedict's property was put on the market and sold by closed tender in January 2026, with settlement due in September 2026. The buyer plans to develop residential units on the site subject to WCC approval. The final parish consultation meeting has been held and the draft report is expected soon. The draft report will be reviewed and released to the Parish for any final comments. We will update you once the report has been received.

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Greg Diggins

Anniversary: Elena P. Fernandez , Vera Coutinho

Prayers for the sick: Irene Stonyer , Vaeluaga Aspinall , Sam Godinet, Mrs. Theresa Peteli,

Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen Godinez,

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, Delia Flores Fabreag



For the latest information visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisochariu.nz>

Taizé Prayer Evening – Jubilee of St Francis of Assisi

This was a wonderful evening of meditative prayer and singing to the chants of Taizé monastery, complemented by fellowship over warm mulled wine and variety of canapés and nibbles. Fr Alfred led the congregation in the singing with his beautiful resonant voice and piano. Fr Gerard shared the history of Taizé and the St Francis jubilee year. Thanks to all who attended and made the evening possible!



St Benedict's School Mass – Patron Saint's Mass

All parishioners of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu, we'd love you to join us in the church for our Patron Saint's School Mass on **Thursday 2 July 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church, Johnsonville at 11.30am.**

St Benedict's School 75th Jubilee SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday 22 October – Saturday 23 October 2027

We're celebrating 75 years of St Benedict's School! If you're a past pupil or friend of the school, please complete this short [survey](#) to help us estimate attendance and plan the event. Please share it with other alumni. We look forward to celebrating with you in 2027.

We're Hiring – Gap Year Intern Lead (.8 FTE) | Wellington

Challenge 2000 is seeking a Gap Year Intern Lead (.8 FTE) to mentor and support young adults through a year of service, leadership development, and community living. If you're passionate about helping young people grow and thrive, we'd love to hear from you. To apply or request further information, please send your CV and cover letter to: pauladavies@challenge2000.org.nz

Parish Pyxes : A gentle reminder to parishioners who have a parish pyx: please return it to the sacristy as soon as possible so that it is available for the ministry to the sick and housebound. Thank you.

Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now! Parents are invited to an information session on **Tuesday, 30 June at 7.00pm.** The full programme schedule and application forms are available in the church foyer, or can be downloaded from our website. [here](#) or email to: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

"WHAT IS THE WEATHER TELLING US?" As part of celebrating the jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi, you are invited to an evening of encounter with our natural environment with **James Lunny**, a meteorologist with MetService New Zealand. **Saturday, 18 July 2026 at 6.15 pm at SFOAO Church.** Weather permitting, a session with a Dobsonian telescope will complete the evening. For more information, contact Fr Alfred: alfred@stfrancisohariu.nz

School Holiday Programme: Our Parish Outreach Team invites children aged 5-14 to our School Holiday Programme on **Tuesday 7 & 14 July, from 9:30am to 4:00pm at SFOAO Church Hall, Johnsonville.** And young people aged 14 and over to a **Wellington Out and About Day on Wednesday 8 July 9am to 4:30pm.** Numbers are limited. For further details please contact Kitty McKinley: 021491459 or email: triciamariedeane@gmail.com for registration form.

A FEAST FOR ALL PEOPLES: PATHWAYS TO SYNODALITY

The parish will be running a 5-session programme that offers a way to engage with the Final Document of the Synod on Synodality. Parishioners meet in small groups to explore together five significant passages from the Document. You are invited, to a journey of conversion and renewal, learning some of the practices and dispositions of synodality along the way. The programme begins in mid-July and there may be daytime and evening options, depending on interest. If you are interested in being part of a group, please contact Lucienne at l.hensel@cadw.nz by **30 June 26.**

Parish Liturgy Committee: next meeting Tues 14 July, 7pm: Interested in helping develop our liturgies and ceremonies? Join us in supporting sacristans, altar servers, and other ministers. New members welcome: talk to Fr. Gerard or Fr. Alfred or contact David Dobson, current Chair) daviddobson794@gmail.com In connection with liturgical formation, US liturgist and parish priest **Fr Paul Turner will lead a seminar, Saturday 1 August 2026, 10:00am-2:30pm, Connolly Hall, Hill Street, Wellington.** All involved in liturgical ministries are warm-

Parking Reminder : The two P5 spaces on Dr Taylor Tce are for drop-off and pick-up only. Please do not park in these spaces for the duration of Mass. Thank you.

Quote :

'Let us drink anew from this Eucharistic spring, which does not enclose us in private devotion, but sends us out to refresh our brothers and sisters, our families, the poor, the suffering, and those who have lost hope. Eucharistic grace transforms us and makes us protagonists of the transformation of history, a sign of hope for those we meet.'

Pope Leo XIV, Homily, Madrid, 7 June 2026

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**

