



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

**First Sunday of Advent - 30 November 2025, Year A**  
**Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44**

## Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns  
g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz

## Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong  
alfred@stfrancisoahariu.nz

## Parish Office Hours

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

## Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**

**Sun: 10am Mass**

### Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 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

### **Holy Land update: Christian Voices; Kairos documents.**

*(Reflection by Mons Gerard Burns)*

30 November at 7.15 pm

### **Advent Pilgrimage of Hope**

13 December

## Reflections

### Let us Wake Up and Stand Ready

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Church's New Year. The theme of this day is Hope.

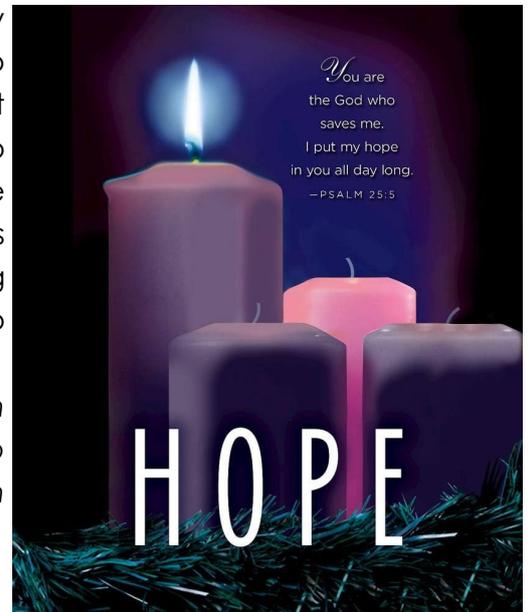
We are invited to wake up and prepare for the coming of the Messiah, the Christ into our world. Through the ages the prophets and the people had longed for the coming of the Messiah.

Isaiah 2:1-5 exhorts us to allow God of our ancestors to "teach us his ways so we can walk in his paths." Isaiah further suggests that we "walk in the light of the Lord". Let us walk together this Advent, supporting and encouraging one another. We can respond to the psalmist who sings "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord". Paul is even more urgent with his message (Romans 13:11-14) – "the time has come: you must wake up now.... The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon." Matthew 24: 37-44 echoes Paul's message – "Stay awake, you must be ready." In our busy world with many calls upon

our time and attention, we may have very good intentions to make time to prepare this Advent even if we have found it difficult to make time in the past. Even the smallest quiet time each day is sufficient to create a life-giving space for the Christ to come into our world this Christmas.

*How will you create a space in your daily life this Advent to enable the Christ to be birthed in your life this Christmas?*

**Judy McCormack**



## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased :** Kevin Mullane (Funeral: Tuesday 2 Dec, 11am) , Sister Margaret Lancaster, LCM

**Anniversary:** Jackie Vaughan

**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.stfrancisoahariu.nz>

## Holy Land update: Christian Voices; Kairos documents.

As we approach Christmas, what are Christian voices saying from within the Holy Land? What reflection has the displacement of people in Gaza and the West Bank brought (including the Kairos documents)?

**Mons. Gerard Burns** will offer some historical and theological reflections at **7.15pm, Sunday 30th November at St Francis of Assisi parish church**, 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville. All welcome.

 **Explore life, faith & meaning... TRY ALPHA!**  
Join us for an open and informal space to explore faith with others. Whether you're new to the Church or a cradle Catholic, Alpha offers a refreshing way to renew your faith, connect with others, and have meaningful conversations about what truly matters. It's also the perfect place to invite friends or colleagues who may have questions! Starting in our parish on **TUESDAY 3rd February 2026**. Join us, and bring a friend! For more information, please contact us at: [alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz)

### 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.

**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](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz)

### Evangelii Nuntiandi – 50 Years of Proclaiming the Gospel

Webinar on **Tuesday, 2 December 2025 at 7:00 PM**

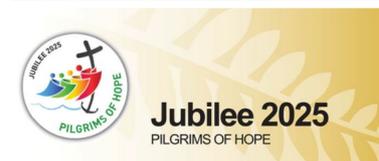
Join Bishop John Adams, Carly Mulqueen, and Dr. John Evangelista for a discussion on the 50th anniversary of Pope St. Paul VI's apostolic exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi. The webinar will explore the document's call to evangelize and how its message is lived out today.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/december2webinar>

### Parking Reminder During Weekend Mass

A friendly reminder to parishioners attending weekend Masses: to ensure emergency vehicles can access the premises quickly if needed, please be mindful to keep the middle strip clear. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping us keep everyone safe.

## 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**. Please gather at St. Francis of Assisi (Dr Taylor Terrace) by **8:45 AM for a 9:00 AM departure**, returning to J'ville by **12:30 PM**. Morning tea will be at the Cloister Café, Home of Compassion (PYO-pay for your own)). In the evening, **after the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass**, we'll conclude with dinner and carols in the church hall. Feel free to invite family, friends, and co-workers. Register here: <https://forms.gle/TRCd6LS2KNCPxki8>. Contact **Robert McClean, 022 067 6655** for further information.



### The last Late Night Mass for 2025 is here!

Come join us on **5th December at 8.00pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral** to celebrate the Holy Eucharist together. Don't forget to bring a plate and we'll see you there!

### St Mary's College will be celebrating the 175th Jubilee

on **Saturday, 6 December 2025** from 11.00am – 5.00pm. <https://forms.gle/qC1YmfV7N7Ma7dx27>

**Voice for Life:** There is an opportunity to celebrate our families and champion life on Saturday, **6 December 2025 at 12noon at Parliament**.

### World Youth Day 2027:

Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form below and email Regina Fernandes at : [r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz) for any questions.

### Quote from Pope Leo :

*'We share the same faith in the one and only God, the Father of all people; we confess together the one Lord and true Son of God, Jesus Christ, and the one Holy Spirit, who inspires us and impels us towards full unity and the common witness to the Gospel. Truly, what unites us is much greater than what divides us! In a world that is divided and torn apart by many conflicts, the one universal Christian community can be a sign of peace and an instrument of reconciliation, playing a decisive role in the global commitment to peace.'*

*Pope Leo XIV, Apostolic Letter on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, 2025.*

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

**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm

**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)**

Account name: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha: **02-0524-0203642-00**

