



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

Where heaven and earth come together

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 31st August, Year C

Readings: Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns

g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong

Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz

Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137

Mon to Thursday

8.30am—2.30pm

Office@stfrancisochariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun 10am Mass

Tue: 5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation
11.00am Anointing 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

Paying it Forward

The idea of 'paying it forward' has existed for over 100 years. Someone given a generous gift takes the next opportunity to give to another person rather than paying back the original giver. Like a nuclear chain reaction or a row of falling dominos, the act of giving over time benefits people whom the original giver may have never known or met.



While uncontrolled nuclear reactions, with the waste generated, leads to a meltdown, the uncontrolled way in which perpetual giving can nourish life beyond our own family or parish means that a simple act of initiating giving can create an ecosystem of life all around us.

If you have ever visited Tane Mahuta, the largest living kauri tree in the Waipoua Forest in Northland, you will be awed by the way that it stands -- a towering, supportive canopy with its many branches, and yet, firmly taking root on the ground. It is estimated to be 2,500 years old. For all of the foundations of its greatness lie in the roots it has managed to plant on the forest floor. Through solid foundations, it has managed to survive dehydration and kauri dieback disease—notably by the conservation efforts ensuring care of the surrounding forest floor around the tree.

We hear the cry from Sirach "The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself". Tane Mahuta's greatness lies in the way in which it is humble—its connection rooted to the earth. With every gift that it depends on the nutrition from the forest floor for, it gives so much to the nesting birds of the air and shelter of the forest floor—paying it forward with the gift and service from itself.

As a Eucharistic people who 'gives thanks' in appreciation for all the good things that come our way in life, do we let our legacy 'pay it forward'? In this upcoming Season of Creation, how do we ensure that our community of communities, our ecosystem, thrive through our contributions? **Ngā manaakitanga, Fr Alfred.**

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Nellie Stowers , Bernie McSweeney (31/8), Leo and Nellie Mulqueen (2/9 and 6/9)

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, Salli 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 -

By 'paying it forward', your generous gifts are what keeps your parish and the Archdiocese of Wellington thriving. The **bulk of the money – 82 cents out of every dollar** – that's collected at Mass and through other means stays in your parish. 18% of the money given to your parish goes to mission in the Archdiocese. **Ask yourself:** am I comfortable with the level of my own contribution? Today we also encourage you to consider leaving a bequest to the **ecosystem** of your Church community – something for next time you are updating your will?

The **Catholic Foundation**, established by **Cardinal Tom Williams**, has for 45 years been a pillar of support for the Archbishop and the Archdiocese of Wellington. With **\$11 million distributed** and a **\$14 million fund**, the Foundation has truly made a difference. To learn more about initiating your **gift in perpetuity**, visit catholicfoundation.org.nz or contact Foundation secretary **Kathy Whelan** on **021 666 405**. 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 this mass. We are also looking for any feedback. Feel free to contact office@stfrancishariu.nz.** Thank you for all your generosity this August.

Care for Creation and Catholic Social Teaching - Save the date!

During **September Christians reflect on the need to care for the earth, our common home**. This is an integral part of our Catholic tradition of social teaching – solidarity, human dignity, the promotion of peace, and the right of all to what is needed for a decent human life. In our Archdiocese the **Commission for Ecology, Justice, and Peace** is asked to reflect on church and society in light of this tradition. **The Commission extends an invitation to everyone interested in reflecting on ecology, justice and peace to gather on Saturday 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria.** We will celebrate Mass, take time to share and reflect on issues of concern. We hope this will be a time of sharing and connecting. A plate of food to share would be appreciated. Enquiries to **Jim McAloon**, jmcaloon@xtra.co.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@stfrancishariu.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.

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

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

Anointing Mass—St Francis of Assisi Ohariu. 11am Wed 3rd September

Jubilee for Migrants: Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin, SM on **Sunday 14th September at 2pm**, Sacred Heart Cathedral, followed by a Multicultural Meal, Fellowship, and Mini-Concert. Koha appreciated and will be donated for the renovation of the Cathedral. Bring a plate. m.bernardo@wn.catholic.org.nz

Quote from Pope Leo 'Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be, with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart. That is what makes us neighbours to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers. In the end, love prevails, and proves more powerful than evil and death.' - Pope Leo XIV, [Homily](#), 13 July 2025

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm **Email:** office@stfrancishariu.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.stfrancishariu.nz Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha

02-0524-0203642-00

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