



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1 February 2026, Year A
Readings: Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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
office@stfrancisoHariu.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 Reconciliation

11.00am Mass with

Morning Tea

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

Important Dates

6 February 2026

Waitangi Day Masses
SMOA at 9:00 am
St Francis of Assisi Ohariu at
5.00pm

19 February 2026

Safeguarding Workshop

22nd February 2026

Parish Synodal Gathering

Reflections

The readings today deal with the lowly and generally unappreciated members of society who become more important with the help of God.

Zephaniah does not address the wealthy of the world but talks instead of the humble of the earth – you are the ones who should seek integrity and humility. This is at a time when Judah has entered a period of false worship of idols – and it's not much before the Babylonian Exile occurs.

As ever it is the rich and powerful who lead these rejections of God and who will not take notice of a prophet - so he talks to the lowly and the humble.

Paul carries this on in his letter to the Corinthians: "Those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones God has chosen"

And into the Beatitudes – the beautiful signs which point to goodness in daily life; and none of them speak about the rich and the powerful- NO – they all describe those on whom the world tends to look down : the poor in spirit, the gentle, the merciful, the poor in heart .

Some years ago I recall watching on a television broadcast an interview with Ted Turner who went on to found CNN: I cannot quite recall how the subject was raised but he was asked about religion and somehow the beatitudes came into it; Religion, he said, was for losers and as for the beatitudes – he positively sneered as he asked how on earth the meek would inherit the earth – and he boasted that the meek didn't even have sufficient to often feed themselves on!! How could they possibly inherit the earth???

I fear that he forgot – as so many do – to read the sentence that follows the Beatitudes: "rejoice and be glad FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN" – not on earth.

SO: as most of us will not consider ourselves to be in the rich and powerful we can take comfort that those words of Jesus in the Beatitudes refer firmly to us

And therefore we can be assured of our place in Heaven

Tony de Joux

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Mary Kathleen Hogan

Anniversary: Mary Porter, Fr John Murphy, Brian de Joux , Daniel Clough

Prayers for the sick: Patricia Keane, 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, 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.stfrancisoHariu.nz>



Explore Life, Faith & Meaning – Try Alpha!

Join us for informal conversations about faith, connection, and what truly matters. Whether you're new to the Church or a lifelong Catholic, Alpha is a refreshing way to explore and renew your faith. Bring a friend!

Starts: **Tuesday, 3rd February 2026** at our parish. For more information, please contact us at: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

Visitation Ministry

Our parish has a dedicated team that brings Holy Communion to parishioners who are ill or unable to attend Mass, whether they are at home or in one of the care facilities in our parish area. Visits can be weekly or fortnightly, and full training and support are provided.

If you feel called to be part of this ministry, we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Joanne** at **021 043 6856** or byrnejoannem@gmail.com

Parish Synodal Gathering

Sunday, 22nd February 2026 | 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm (approx.)

Our parish community will come together for an afternoon of prayer, reflection, and renewal. This gathering is an opportunity to connect, share, and grow in faith as we journey together synodally.

Further details will be shared closer to the date.

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation

Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website. Next course, consecutive **Sundays 1 & 8 March 10.00am-4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie**. Register early (couples attend both Sundays together in person). See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any queries contact: marriage@cadw.nz

VOCATIONS RETREAT WEEKEND

27-29 MARCH 26

COME, FOLLOW ME...



THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD?

Join us for a **VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT - 27 - 29 March 2026** @ Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston. A discernment retreat for young men exploring a call to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Closing date for registrations:

Friday, 27 February 2026. For more information contact Lucienne l.hensel@cadw.nz

Children's Liturgy: NO Children's Liturgy this weekend. Sessions will resume on **15 February 2026**.

St Brigid's School Car Parking – Sundays

With the Astro turf still in progress, there will be NO on-site parking at the school this weekend. Thank you for your understanding.

Safeguarding Workshops: All Parishioners Welcome

Two Safeguarding Workshops will be held on **Thursday, 19 February in the Church Hall, Johnsonville, at 2.00pm and 7.00pm**. These workshops are open to all parishioners, not only those involved in parish ministries. The aim is to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of safeguarding within our parish community. To register, please contact Maree Goodall at : meag237@gmail.com

Waitangi Day Masses: Friday, 6 February 2026

9:00am - St Mary of the Angels

Annual Waitangi Day Mass at the National Shrine of Mary, Whaea o te Atua, presided over by Mons. Gerard Burns VG. Prayers and hymns in Māori, English, Latin and more.

5:00pm : St Francis of Assisi Ōhāriu—Johnsonville

All welcome — nau mai, haere mai!

St Valentine's Day Mass - the Archbishop invites you to

the annual celebration of married love. All engaged and married couples welcome. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm, **5.30pm on Saturday 14 February, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon**. Light refreshments to follow. Come along to this joyful Mass before your dinner reservation!

Late Night Mass for Young People – Friday, 13 February at

8.00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street - Come join us for the first Late Night Mass of the year with other young people! We hope to see you all there and don't forget to bring a plate.

Annual Mission Fair – Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver

Saturday 21 February 2026, 10:00am–2:00pm

Convent Grounds, 1 Mersey Street, Island Bay

Stalls, Rapid Raffle & more! Donations welcome. Proceeds support water tanks in Kenya & toilets in Cameroon. More info contact the Sisters : (04) 383 8401

Palm Collection for Ashes :

For all parishioners who have palms from last year and wish to return them to the Parish, please place them in the box provided at the walkway. We will burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you for your contribution!

Quote from Pope Leo :

"In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, St Francis continues to speak ...because his life points to the authentic source of peace...Peace with God, peace among human beings, and with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation."

Pope Leo XIV – letter to Ministers General of the Conference of the Franciscan family 10 January 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**

