



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12 July 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

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 Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30am Reconciliation
11.00am Mass followed by
morning tea

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

**Holy Hour/Adoration every
Wednesday at 7.00 pm**

Important Dates

14 July 2026

Liturgy Committee meeting at
7.00 pm

18 July 2026

WHAT IS THE WEATHER TELLING US
at 6.15 pm

28 July 2026

Grandparents Mass with St. Benedict's School at 11.30 am

1 August 2026

Liturgy workshop at Conolly Hall
at 10 am—2.30 pm

Reflection

The Parable of the Sower reminds us that faith is not a solo journey, but the beautiful witnessing of community. Our parish mirrors the very landscape Jesus describes—a gathering from entirely different walks of life, bringing unique histories, joys, and struggles to the pews. Yet, what unites us will always be far greater than anything that could divide us. We are witnesses to an undeniable truth: every one of us came here to belong, and through this sense of belonging, we are empowered to truly believe. Together, we form the "rich soil" where the Word of God can finally take root.

Reaping this harvest requires us to move forward and create shared memories—sacred spaces and traditions where our children have room to grow into their faith, and where our elders can gracefully and with great dignity grow old out of theirs. This demands a conscious choice: to lead with kindness, be patient with shortcomings, and hold space for each other.

God has called us by name to this exact moment to be enablers of progress, uniting for the greater good. As Mother Teresa said:

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things... Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things."

Natasha Telles

Employment Vacancy - St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Community Outreach Worker – 30 hours per week (negotiable)

This part-time role involves assisting families and individuals in need in practical ways, facilitating groups and programmes for women and children, supporting volunteers and, as required, linking people with appropriate support agencies. The successful candidate will be a mature and dynamic person with excellent personal and networking skills and proven experience in working across different cultures and communities. The initial contract is for a fixed term of six months. For more information, please contact **Kitty: 021491459**, email: kittymckinley@extra.co.nz or **John: 0278467489**, email: john.kleinsman@gmail.com

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Walter Baier

Anniversary: Edward (Ted) de Joux , Peter Gilligan

Prayers for the sick: Irene Stonyer , Vaeluaga Aspinall , Sam Godinet, Theresa Peteli, 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.stfrancisohariu.nz>

Parish Matariki Event – Jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi

"WHAT IS THE WEATHER TELLING US?" As part of the **jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi**, you are invited to a Matariki evening encounter with our natural environment led by **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

Matariki Holiday Programme

On 8th July, the Parish Outreach Team and Challenge Marist interns hosted a Matariki-themed holiday programme in the church hall, attended by 21 children from the parish and wider community. Through games, arts and crafts, cookie decorating, and learning a Matariki waiata, the children explored the meaning of Matariki, remembering those who have passed, celebrating the present, and looking to the future with hope. It was a joyful day of reflection, inclusion, and celebration.



Seafarer Sunday—12 July 2026

Stella Maris Wellington (previously known as Apostleship of the Sea) will be celebrating Seafarer Sunday on **12 July 2026**. Volunteers offer practical and spiritual assistance to seafarers visiting our port. We urgently seek people to assist in this important service, especially those with languages other than English, particularly Tagalog, Indonesian, Mandarin and/or Cantonese, Hindi and Vietnamese. Donations can also be made to: **Apostleship of the Sea Account Number 01 0527 0312182**. To receive a receipt or to learn more, email: stellamariswellington@gmail.com

New Online Faith Resource

Former NZ Catholic editor Pat McCarthy has launched a free online publication exploring Catholic beliefs and practices. Topics include the Mass, church music, marriage, spirituality, and understanding the Bible. Visit: <https://fathomingthefaith.substack.com>.

Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision & Commit - register online: [Marriage - Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington](https://www.marriage-catholic-archdiocese-of-wellington.org.nz). Next course, **Sundays, 6 & 13 September from 10.00am - 4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie**. More details contact: marriage@cadw.nz

Happy 80th Birthday, Wendy Cleaver!

Congratulations and best wishes to Wendy on her 80th birthday. We are deeply grateful for her many years of faithful service, generosity, and dedication to our parish community. May God bless you with good health, joy, and many more happy years ahead.

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 warmly encouraged to attend.

St Thomas More Church, Wilton will close permanently on Sunday 30 August 2026. The organising committee has warmly invites all ex-parishioners and those associated with the church to a Farewell Weekend: **Open Day on Saturday 29 August 2026 (11am–approx 5pm), with time from 3pm to share and listen to stories. Final Mass Sunday 30 August, 4pm, led by Archbishop Paul Martin.**

HOLY HOUR for vocations JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! **Tuesday, 28th July and every 4th Tuesday of the month: 7.30 - 8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Thorndon**

Upcoming ONLINE Safeguarding Workshops: Join one of our online safeguarding workshops to learn how we, as a Church, are working together to keep everyone safe. Workshops **from 7.00-8.15pm Monday 20 July, Tuesday 28 July.** To register, email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship

Join other men for a quiz on Matthew's gospel (chapters 15 to 28) and a reflection, this coming **Thursday 16th July 2026 at Joshua from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall** (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral). Reflection on theme **"The Lord hears your cry": Peter Woods.** More details: David Monastra 027-4477 280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Quote :

'A rather unusual sower goes out to sow, but does not care where the seed falls... God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God's generosity and mercy.'

Pope Leo XIV General Audience, 21 May 2025

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

