



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

## Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

**Third Sunday of Advent - 14 December 2025, Year A**  
**Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6,10 ; James 5:7-10 ; Matthew 11:2-11**

**Parish Priest**  
Msgr Gerard Burns  
g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz

**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Alfred Tong  
alfred@stfrancisoohariu.nz

**Parish Office Hours**  
04 478 7137  
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm  
office@stfrancisoohariu.nz

### Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week  
**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**  
**Sun: 10am Mass**

#### Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : **NO** Weekday Mass  
Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation  
11.00am Mass  
(**NO** morning tea)

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

### Important Dates

**Advent Pilgrimage of Hope**  
13 December

**Christmas Eve**  
24 December :  
5.10 pm Carol, 5.30 pm Mass  
8.00 pm Carol , 8.30 pm Mass

**Christmas Day**  
25 December Mass at 10 am

**New Year Day**  
1 January Mass at 9 am

## Reflections

Advent is a time of preparation and expectation. We prepare ourselves to celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus. Underneath this though is our Advent times of prayer opening ourselves to the presence of Jesus in our hearts. We do so with the expectation that He will be leading us into an ever deeper oneness with Him.

This theme of preparation and expectation is reflected in this Sunday's scriptures.

Isaiah paints a wonderful picture of a barren landscape bursting into bloom through the presence of the Glory of God. He then goes on to encourage people exhausted by judgement and exile that God will come to save them. As God does so He brings people healing and wholeness and leads them along the Way of Holiness to the Promised Land. The people of God enter Zion with singing and everlasting joy. It is a beautiful vision of hope and joy.

James asks us to be patient as we wait upon the coming of the Lord in power amongst us, just as a farmer waits for his crop to ripen. We are to wait in love and perseverance in the face of suffering.

Matthew writes of John the Baptist, the messenger, preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus identifies as the Messiah, not as an earthly king, but as a servant Messiah bringing healing and wholeness and the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven with its promise of everlasting life.

The season of Advent is a season of expectation. It is a time of welcoming again the presence of Jesus in our lives. As our awareness deepens of Jesus renewing our hearts and minds through His presence, we are increasingly challenged to live out our faith through acts of love, particularly with those who are on the margins and are in need. In doing so Jesus says we become "greater than John the Baptist". An amazing comparison.

**Ewen Laurenson**



### Remembering the Holy Souls

#### Recently Deceased :

**Anniversary:** Theresa Rosa , Mark Telfar

**Prayers for the sick:** 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



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



## St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Christmas & New Year Mass Timetable

### 24 December 2025 – Christmas Eve

5:10 pm Christmas Carol — 5:30 pm Mass  
8:00 pm Christmas Carol — 8:30 pm Mass

### 25 December 2025 – Christmas Day

Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 am

### 27–28 December 2025

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

### 1 January 2026 – New Year's Day

New Year's Day Mass—9.00 am

### Weekend Masses throughout January 2026

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm  
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

### Weekday Masses Schedule for January 2026

**NO** Weekday Mass on Tuesday  
Wednesday Mass/Liturgy: 9:00 am (no morning tea)

**\* Weekday Masses on Tuesday 5:30pm and Wednesday 11:00am will resume from 1 February 2026**



**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](mailto:alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz)

**A new defibrillator** has been recently installed on the back (West) wall of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu church hall. We give thanks to the generosity of a member of our parish whose substantial donation contributed to the purchase of this asset for our community. **Training will be offered in 2026** for anyone wishing to learn to use it.

### Advent Pilgrimage of Hope – Sat 13 Dec 2025

Visit **Our Lady's Home of Compassion & Sacred Heart Cathedral**. Reflect on Advent, enjoy morning tea, and finish with evening carols & dinner at St Francis hall. **Lifts available.** Bring friends! Register: <https://forms.gle/TRCd6LS2kNCPxki8> Contact Robert McClean, 022 067 6655 for further information.

### Advent Penitential Service – Sunday, 14 December

Prepare your heart for Christmas with **Reconciliation at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa. Time: 4:15 pm**  
All are welcome to come and reflect, seek forgiveness, and experience God's mercy.

**Children's Liturgy:** The last session for 2025 is **Sunday 14 Dec**. Sessions will resume on **15 Feb 2026**

### Moving Forward Together: St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Update

As our parish continues to grow together it is time to take the next steps towards unifying onto a single church site. These processes are significant, and we are committed to moving forward with care to build a welcoming place for all. To fund this vision, the Archbishop approved the sale of the deconsecrated **St. Benedict's Khandallah** property (December 2025).

- ◆ **Honouring the Legacy:** We value the legacy of St. Benedict's and ask for your constructive guidance as we plan the future.
- ◆ **Sale & Reinvestment:** The sale is planned for **early 2026**. Proceeds will be reinvested into the parish and development of the new church (post consultation).
- ◆ **Consultation:** We will begin consultation on the new place of worship, sharing a framework for this process in **early February 2026**.

Thank you for your engagement and we hope for your continued involvement as we embark on this journey of renewal and growth. **We look forward to building this new chapter of faith together.**

**The Parish Leadership Committee (Clergy, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance and Property committee)**

### Parish Office – End of Year Notice

The last day for the Parish Office in 2025 is **Thursday, 18 Dec**. The office will reopen on **Tuesday, 20 January 2026**.

### Quote from Pope Leo :

*'We want to walk together by appreciating what unites us, breaking down the walls of prejudice and mistrust, promoting mutual knowledge and esteem in order to give to all a strong message of hope and an invitation to become "peacemakers"'*

*Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 29 November 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**

