



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

Where heaven and earth come together

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15 February 2026, Year A**  
**Readings: Sirach 15:15-20 , 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 , Matthew 5:17-37**

## Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns  
g.burns@cadw.nz

## Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong  
alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz

## Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137  
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm  
office@stfrancisochariu.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 Ash Wednesday  
Mass (no morning tea)

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

## Important Dates

**18 February 2026**

**Ash Wednesday**

11am Mass

7pm Ecumenical Service

(Parking available at Uniting Church)

**19 February 2026**

**Safeguarding Workshop**

2 pm & 7 pm

**22 February 2026**

**Parish Hui**

1.30 pm—4pm

## Reflections

Merton writes in *New Seeds of Contemplation* "All sin starts from the assumption that my false self . . . is the fundamental reality of life to which everything else in the universe is ordered.

Thus, I use up my life in the desire for pleasure and the thirst for experiences, for power, honour, knowledge and love, to clothe this false self and construct its nothingness into something objectively real."

But my false self is so greedy that it can never be satisfied by the things it seeks. I may hide this greedy face in disguise as a powerful preacher, a prolific writer, or sophisticated theologian.

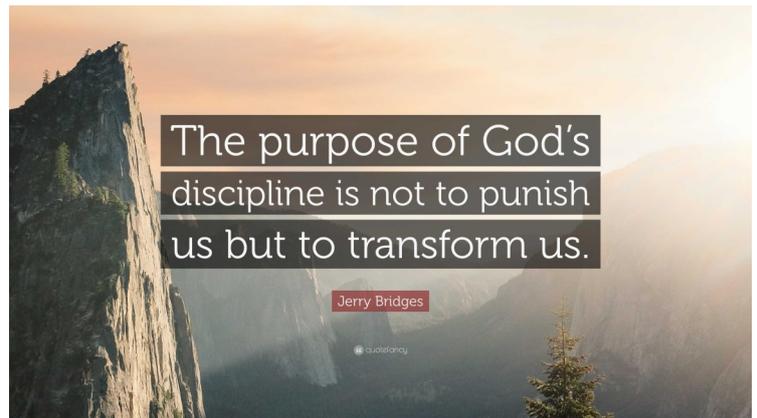
But hiding is not the same as transformation. Greed is, indeed, one of the deadly sins, and hiding it merely allows it to grow and operate outside of awareness.

The deepening of my spiritual life therefore demands that I first see clearly my falsity. But at the same time the loving whisper of God consoles me and calls me to discover the positive potentials of my true self.

God's aim is not to punish us by exposing us to our own ugliness, but to show us our falsity so that we may see beyond it to the original beauty of our true self.

Merton says that God calls us to shift from the circumference to the centre, from appearance to reality, from the sensible to the intelligible, and from time to eternity.

**Peter Mulqueen**



## Remembering the Holy Souls

### Recently Deceased :

**Anniversary:** Azucena Yu Perez (Zeny's)

**Prayers for the sick:** Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker, Tovia 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.stfrancisochariu.nz>

**Malvina Major:** Anointing Mass in the Chapel-Reflection Room Wednesday 25 February 2.00pm.

### **Parish Hui | Sunday 22 February 2026**

You are warmly invited to a Parish Hui to reflect together on the Parish Pastoral Plan and the mission we are called to live as a parish community. The afternoon will include short presentations from the Finance & Building Committees and Pastoral Council, followed by small group sharing using the Conversation in the Spirit method. This will give everyone a chance to listen to one another, share from the heart, and respond to the call to communion, participation and mission. The Hui will be held in the parish church from 1:30 to 4pm. Afternoon tea will be provided. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**TRY ALPHA! It's not too late to join our Alpha Course!** Join us on **Tuesdays at 7pm** in the parish hall and bring a friend!

For more information, please contact us at: [alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz)

**HELPERS NEEDED!** Are you looking for an opportunity to serve in the parish community? Talk to us about becoming a part of the Alpha Team. Helpers are needed for set-up, cooking and/or serving of meals, and clean-up afterwards. Please contact **Mely** or **Lucienne** at: [alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz)

**Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship** : Joshua Wellington extends an open invitation to everyone (not just the men!) to MASS followed by a light supper on **Thursday 19th February 2026 at 7:30pm** in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Thorndon.

Celebrant: Fr Peter Ewart sm, Joshua chaplain. Want to know more? Ring **David Monastra: 027-4477-280** or email: [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)



### **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](mailto:l.hensel@cadw.nz)

**Children's Liturgy** resumes this Sunday, 15th February. We welcome preschool children (with a parent accompanying very young children) and all primary aged students. Sessions are held most Sundays during the school term. Our aim is to make "Jesus real to the children."

**LOST PROPERTY** : Several lost property items are currently on display in the church porch during weekend Masses. If you are missing anything (for example, a coat or umbrella), please take a moment to check. As is our usual practice, any items not claimed by the end of the month will be donated to the OP shop.

### **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](mailto:meag237@gmail.com)



**HOLY HOUR** for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. JOIN US for an hour of adoration, **reflection** and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! **7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on Tuesday, 24th February** and every 4th Tuesday of the month.

### **Br. Douglas Dawick FMS Memorial Mass**

A Memorial Mass for Br. Douglas Dawick FMS, who served the Lower Hutt parish for many years, will be held on **Saturday, 21 February at 2.00pm at St Peter and Paul's Church, Knights Road**. All are welcome. Please bring a plate to share after the Mass, if possible.

**Visitation Ministry:** Our parish has a dedicated team that visit, or bring Holy Communion to parishioners who live at home or in care facilities, who are ill or are unable to attend Mass. We are particularly seeking people to visit Cashmere Home where we offer a weekly Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service on Tuesday mornings. Training and support will be provided. If you would like to know more about this ministry, we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Sharron : 021 036 1893**, email: [smcweeney@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smcweeney@xtra.co.nz) or **Joanne : 021 043 6856**, email: [byrnejoannem@gmail.com](mailto:byrnejoannem@gmail.com)

**Bishops' Lenten Appeal:** As Lent begins, you are invited to support Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand. Donate online at <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give> or by bank transfer to **03-0518-0211216-000** (use "Lent" and your name as particulars). Bishops' Lenten Appeal envelopes are available at Mass throughout Lent. Thank you for helping vulnerable communities worldwide. For details, email [caritas@caritas.org.nz](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz) or call **0800 22 10 22**.

### **Quote from Pope Leo :**

*"In the face of these grave challenges, we turn to prayer and awareness. Prayer is the "small flame" that we must guard amidst the storm, as it gives us the strength to resist indifference to injustice. Awareness enables us to identify the hidden mechanisms of exploitation in our neighborhoods and in digital spaces. Ultimately, the violence of human trafficking can be overcome only through a renewed vision that beholds every individual as a beloved child of God."*

Pope Leo XIV, Message on Human Trafficking, 8 Feb 2026.

**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**

