



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19 July 2026, Year A
Readings: Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

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

18 July 2026

Parish Matariki Event
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

We are graced by a Merciful and Forgiving God

Sometimes in life we 'act out' because we are thoughtless, tired, hurting or wanting to 'get back'. Sometimes we are sorry and are graced to want to make amends.

In Wisdom (first reading) we are reminded that our loving God is always willing to forgive us for our trespasses.

The Psalmist sings of God's goodness and asks God to listen and take pity on him in his vulnerability. The key factor however is that we repent – turn again toward God and away from sin and express our sorrow for our wrongful actions.

Paul in his Letter to the Romans (second reading) encourages us further to repent by telling us that the Spirit, the Helper (Paraclete) comes to us in our weakness and when we cannot find the words to pray. We are not alone.

Matthew in his gospel records three parables that Jesus shared with his disciples along with the explanation needed by his followers who did not quite 'get it' at first.

These parables seem to be asking us to be realistic about life with its ups and downs. Weeds and seeds grow together until the harvest when our goodness will be separated out.

The tiniest seed becomes a large tree that gives shelter to the birds just as the smallest loving action grows to create a caring community. The yeast which gives lightness and edibility to the flour to make a loaf is like love which leavens the world.

Judy McCormack

Property Consultation – Executive Engagement Summary

Thank you to everyone who prayerfully and generously took part in the consultation. Your wonderful response was a powerful sign of our shared commitment to the mission of the Church. As this Executive Engagement Summary shows, we discovered far more that unites us than divides us, giving us hope as we continue to discern God's call together. Please read the [Executive Summary](#) online in our website or take a copy in the church foyer before it is presented to the Archbishop. Thank you for being part of this journey of faith.

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Patricia Keane , Josefa Vasquez , Gay Pledger

Anniversary: Pio F. Roa , Luisa Victa, Melanie Lin

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

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

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**

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.**

Archdiocese of Wellington Catholic Youth Festival

Join us for the Catholic Youth Festival at **St Mary's College Hall on July 25th from 12:30pm** for an afternoon of fellowship, fun activities, spiritual learning and Mass. This is an event you don't want to miss! For more information and to register, please contact ADW youth coordinator- **Regina Fernandes** : r.fernandes@cadw.nz.

NOTICE – Children's Liturgy for Term 3: There will be no Children's Liturgy during school holidays, public holidays, or while the parish is running the Sacramental Programme. Therefore, there will be **NO Children's Liturgy from 5 July to 30 August & 13 September 2026. Children's Liturgy will be held on 16 and 20 September 2026.** Thank you for your understanding.

Grandparents Mass with St Benedict's School

We'd love you to join us to celebrate and honour all grandparents in the church for our Grandparents Mass on **Tuesday, 28 July 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church, Johnsonville at 11.30am.**

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

Liturgy Workshop Opportunity:

US liturgist and parish priest **Fr Paul Turner** will lead **Ars Celebrandi: The Art of Celebrating Mass on Saturday, 1 August 2026 (9.30am–2.00pm)** at Connolly Hall, Hill Street, Wellington. Open to clergy, liturgy teams, school staff, and all involved in Eucharistic preparation. See the display poster for details and register via the QR code.



Understanding Young People Today: Join young Catholic speaker and content creator **Braden Johnson** for an evening exploring the challenges young people face today and how we can support them with love, truth, and purpose. Ideal for clergy, youth leaders, parents, grandparents, teachers, and PPC members. Discover how we can walk alongside young people and help them thrive. **Wednesday 29 July, at Connolly Hall, from 7.00 – 9.00pm or online ([Zoom link here](#)).**

St Joseph's Catholic School, New Plymouth 1926 – 2026 : warmly invites past students, staff, and families to celebrate its Centenary **Jubilee from Friday 23 October to Sunday 25 October 2026.** Please register here:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeUuzs83RR.../viewform...>

Employment Vacancy - St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Community Outreach Worker 30 hours/week (negotiable)

We're seeking a compassionate and experienced Community Outreach Worker to support individuals and families in need, facilitate programmes for women and children, work alongside volunteers and community agencies. This is a fixed-term, six-month position. More details, please contact **Kitty: 021491459** : kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz or **John: 0278467489** : john.kleinsman@gmail.com

World Youth Day 2027: Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form: <https://forms.gle/cz2MF9QGfjxRSTBA> and email Regina Fernandes at: r.fernandes@cadw.nz

Support Our Parish Through Planned Giving

Thank you to all who faithfully support our Planned Gifting Programme. Your generosity helps sustain the mission and ministry of our parish. We warmly invite others to prayerfully consider joining and becoming part of this important support for our parish family. For more information, please contact Bel: bel@stfrancisohariu.nz

Quote :

'What matters most is not occupying positions of power or defending cultural strongholds, but initiating good processes and enabling them to mature. In this way, the truth of the Gospel is not imposed from above, but grows over time within the concrete interweaving of lives, communities and cultures.'

Pope Leo XIV Magnifica Humanitas, #25

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

