



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2 August 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 55:1-3 ; Romans 8:35,37-39 ; Matthew 14:13-21

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 : 5.00 pm Reconciliation
5.30 pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation
11.00 am 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

2 August 2026

Sacramental Programme Session
at 11.15 am

8 August 2026

Practice session First Sacrament
of Reconciliation at 2.00 pm

9 August 2026

First Sacrament of Reconciliation
at 2.00 pm

18 August 2026

St. Brigid's School Liturgy on Mary
at 9.15 am

Reflection

Our lives are meant for one purpose. We are meant to be loved by God forever, and to be with God forever. How do we know this to be real?

For something to be real, there must be evidence for it to exist. Forensic scientists find trace evidence to support the hypothesis of lawyers and prosecutors that a crime actually happened.



As Catholics, the evidence that God is real is shown through the Sacraments. We are first invited to a loving relationship through Baptism, when this relationship is strengthened by meeting God again through Reconciliation, when the Holy Spirit given to us speaks through Confirmation, and finally, when we are loved, unique individuals fed by the Eucharist.

We see God in the person of Jesus, inviting us to relationship, nourishment and life, that isn't invoked by casting spells, make-belief or superstition. Therefore, Sacraments are not

things to conveniently buy off a supermarket shelf, or consumed like a product or service to be obtained.

Every Sacrament is God's invitation and opportunity to live in you and love you, as you "abide" in God. May we continue to uncover the profound and ordinary way God encounters us through the journeys of the Sacramental Programme, Alpha and OCIA. For nothing can come between us and God's love, "made visible in Jesus Christ".

The invitation is here. Grace is free, but it's not cheap.

Fr Alfred Tong

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Justin (Lyn) Perera, Penny North, Matthew Squire

Anniversary: Bill Smith , Olga D'Souza

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



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



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Are you a young adult searching for the meaning of life? We have an invitation for you! Alpha is coming to our parish - a place to connect with others as you explore the big questions in life. Join us and bring your mates along for a shared meal, an episode on a topic of faith, a chance to ask questions and share ideas. All are welcome to attend. Join us for a **PROMO NIGHT** on **Tuesday 22 September, 7:00pm** in our church hall.

Multicultural Mass : Sunday, 27 September 2026

One Faith, Many Cultures: On Mission Together. Join us for a vibrant Multicultural Mass, presided by **Archbishop Paul Martin SM on Sunday, 27 September 2026 at 2.00pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 40 Hill Street, Thorndon**. Mass will be followed by a joyful fellowship of songs and shared meals. All are welcome, come and celebrate.

Expressions of Interest – Lead Evaluator (Primary Schools)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington seeks Expressions of Interest for a Lead Evaluator – Catholic Character Evaluations of Primary Schools contract role. For an application pack, email Kelly Ross at k.ross@cadw.nz. Applications close: **Monday, 24 August 2026**.

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.**

St Brigid's School Liturgy based on "Mary"

We'd love you to join us to St Brigid's School Liturgy based on Mary on **Tuesday, 18 August 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church, Johnsonville at 9.15 am.**

St Benedict's School 75th Jubilee SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday 22 October – Saturday 23 October 2027

We're celebrating 75 years of St Benedict's School! If you're a past pupil or friend of the school, please complete this short [survey](#) to help us estimate attendance and plan the event. Please share it with other alumni. We look forward to celebrating with you in 2027.

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 6 and 20 September 2026.** Thank you.

Parking Reminder : The two P5 spaces on Dr Taylor Tce are for drop-off and pick-up only. Please do not park in these spaces for the duration of Mass. Thank you.

Late Night Mass – Friday, 7 August 2026

Young adults are invited to the **Late Night Mass at 8.00pm on Friday, 7 August at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington**. Bring a plate to share and join other young Catholics for Mass and fellowship. All are welcome!

Retreat Days and Themes at Pā Maria 2026

Take time and space for a guided day of prayer and reflection. Please bring your own lunch. Entry by koha.

Prayer days at Pā Maria during the year (9am—3.15pm):

19 September : Season of Creation, 17 October : Mary , 5 December : Advent

Presenters: Neil Vaney SM, Chris Skinner SM and Judith Moroney rsm. RSVP by the Tuesday before the prayer day and indicate which prayer day you wish to attend to pamariabookings@gmail.com

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...>

Marriage Seminar: To be held on **Wednesday, 19 August, hospitality from 6.30pm, session will start 7.00pm at Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington**. 'Happily Married in a Tech Obsessed World'. Explore how we can be present and nurture a healthy marriage in a world where so much demands our attention. For more details email to: marriage@cadw.nz

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

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. Upcoming Workshops: **Monday, 17 August (12 noon to 1.15pm), Monday 24 August (7.00pm to 8.15 pm) & Tuesday 25 August (6.30 pm to 8.00pm).** To register, email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz

Quote :

"...we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and "whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor"

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, # 50

Action: What unnecessary consumption do we minimise - use of AI, energy, water? What extra "good gifts" - "Eucharist", may be gathered up, offered and sent to others, so all can "come and eat" and have life?

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

