



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

Where heaven and earth come together

First Sunday of Lent - 22 February 2026, Year A
Readings: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 ; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

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 Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation
11.00am Mass (with
morning tea)

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

Important Dates

20 February 2026

Lent Reflection Programme
1pm
Station of the Cross
6.30pm

22 February 2026

Parish Hui

1.30 pm—4pm

25 February 2026

Malvina Major Anointing Mass
2pm

Invitation to Parish gathering

Dear parishioners,

St Francis of Assisi parish is officially 10 years old. Following a couple of years of consultations the 3 previous parishes - Onslow, Johnsonville, Newlands - became one in early 2016 with a new name: St Francis of Assisi.

Those 3 parishes had grown out of previous larger parishes. I myself, between the ages of 5 till 18 years, lived in Onslow parish. I made my first communion in the old St John's church in Ngātoto St, Ngaio.

Onslow (originally Ngaio, Khandallah, Kaiwharawhara as Crofton Downs had yet to be built at the parish's start) had been part of Johnsonville parish until 1950.

St Francis of Assisi is relatively new as a distinct entity but, not without some birth pangs, we are developing via the faith and efforts of you who are reading this. This Sunday we are having our parish gathering (a synodal assembly because of the methodology) to continue this process and mission.

The gathering will begin with some brief reports and information (including finance and imminent building/property consultation) then time for some joint reflection on the parish pastoral plan. It is a chance for you to help shape our short and medium-term future.

I warmly invite you to this gathering. I am inviting especially those of you who have not attended before, even if you are only recently in the parish or if English is your second language. We need your participation and perspective.

Nau mai, haere mai! Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

Father Gerard Burns

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Ubon (Anya Borthwick's mum)

Anniversary: Sr Lourdes Espejo.FMM , Jose Espejo

Prayers for the sick: Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'l, 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 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.

Baptism: We warmly welcome **Delilah** and **Hawk** into our parish family, who were baptized on Sunday, 15 February 2026 by Fr. Alfred Tong. May God's blessings guide them as they grow in faith and love within our community.



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

FAMILY SPACE Wanted. Some one to look after this space. It involves 1. Making sure that the carpet is clean. 2. That here is a supply of paper and colouring in pages available. 3. After each Sunday mass making sure that the carpet has been rolled back against the glass doors and that the space is tidy. Waste paper goes in the paper bin in the walkway to the parish office. If you could look after this space please contact: Pat Collier.
Email: tchpat.collier@gmail.com

 **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 **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

World Day of Prayer (WDP) You are invited to WDP, an ecumenical prayer service, held every Friday on the first week of March. This year WDP is being hosted by the Johnsonville Salvation Army Church, Main Road, Johnsonville on **Friday 6 March at 11am**. A late morning tea follows. Contact : Maria 0212862742 or Jo 4785639

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.



Ash Wednesday – 18 February 2026

We began our Lenten season with Ash Wednesday Mass at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish. May this season be a time of prayer, reflection, and renewal for our parish community.

Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now!

Enrolments are now open for the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish 2026 Sacramental Programme. This programme is open to all children who have been baptised in the Catholic faith and are in Year 4 or above. Full schedule and details are on the website. Enrolments close strictly 1 July 2026. Download your application form our website [\[here\]](#). Or contact our sacramental programme team at : sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

Stations of the Cross – Every Friday in Lent

This Lenten season, all parishioners are warmly invited to join us for the Stations of the Cross **every Friday at 6:30 pm** in our church. One of our priests will also be available in the sacristy for Reconciliation during and after the Stations. We look forward to walking this prayerful journey with you.

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 or call **0800 22 10 22**.



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

Quote from Pope Leo :

'In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.'

Pope Leo XIV, Message for Lent 2026.

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**

