



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty First Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 23 August 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 22:19-23; Romans 11: 33-36; Matthew 16:13-18

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: 10.00am Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 9.15 am St Brigid's School
Mass (Tūi)

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

23 August 2026

Confirmation Session at 11.15 am

25 August 2026

Liturgy Committee Meeting at
7.00pm

30 August 2026

Confirmation Session at 11.15 am

13 September 2026

Sacrament of Confirmation at
2.00pm

Reflection

The readings for today reflect the divine authority of God revealed in his choice of leaders to govern and shepherd His people.

In Isaiah we read how God replaces Shebna with Eliakim who is invested with divine authority symbolised by being given the key of the House of David.

This story echoes powerfully in the Gospel where Jesus gives a divine authority to Peter. This did not happen through human wisdom but through a grace filled revelation to Peter from God the Father. Peter's proclamation that Jesus "is the Christ, the Son of the Living God", not only acknowledged who Jesus was at the time, but his statement of faith has reverberated down the centuries to us today. It has become the bedrock of Christian identity and forms the basis of our prayer life.

Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans that this divine plan is so vast and deep that it is beyond our understanding and leaves us in awe. So God chooses as leaders two ordinary and flawed human beings Eliakim and Peter to bear His Keys and support His people. We too are called to bear witness to God through our faith in Jesus even though our weaknesses discourage us at times.

But today's psalm strongly states that God is faithful in His love for us. He hears our prayers, answers our cry and increases the strength of our souls. His Sovereignty is that of a good shepherd, compassionate and deeply loving of each one of us. We can have confidence that we have God with us as we live out our Christian calling.

Prayer : Lord strengthen us daily as we carry out your calling on our lives. Amen

Ewen Laurenson

(Psalm 138)
LORD, ON THE DAY
I CALLED FOR HELP,
YOU ANSWERED ME
Francesca LaRosa

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Susan Moriarty , Aylene Morales , Fr Penehe Patelesio

Anniversary: Azucena Yu Perez "Zeny"

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>

HOLY HOUR: Join us for Adoration, reflection, and prayer for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. **Tuesday 25 August 7.30–8.30pm, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon.** Every 4th Tuesday of the month.



COME & SEE Vocations Morning - for young men interested in exploring a vocation to the priesthood. **Saturday 29th August 2026 at 9am to 12:30pm at Our Lady of the Valleys, 5 Palmer Crescent, Heretaunga.** The morning begins with Mass at 9.00am. Text 021 164 5800 or email: l.hensel@cadw.nz to register. Join us and bring a friend!

St Brigid's Quiz Night – Fundraiser Join us for a fun Quiz Night on **Sunday, 30 August, 7:00–9:00 pm at 1841 Café, Bar & Restaurant, Johnsonville.** Tickets are \$20 per person. Please bring some coins for raffles and games. Scan the QR code to book your place!



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 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

Wills and Bequests Campaign – A Legacy of Faith

A gift in your will is a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy of faith and support the future mission of the Church. By remembering the Church in your will or with a bequest, you help ensure that future generations can continue to encounter God through His Church. Your generosity strengthens our parish and continues the mission of the Church. Every gift, regardless of size, helps strengthen this mission, and supports your local parish and the Archdiocese. To find out more about leaving a gift in your will, please visit: <https://cadw.nz/wills-and-bequests>

Ordination to the Priesthood - Reverend Deacon Emilio Capin: The Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington warmly invites you to Deacon Emilio's Ordination to the Priesthood on **Saturday, 5 September 2026 at 11am at the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 40 Hill Street, Thorndon.** Join us in prayer and celebration as Emilio begins his new ministry as a priest. All are welcome.



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Are you a young adult searching for the meaning of life? We have an invitation for you! 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 Sept, 7:00pm** in our church hall.

St Brigid's School Mass

We'd love you to join us in the church for our syndicate Masses at 9.15 am on Tuesdays at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church: **25 August - Tūi (Year 4-6) Mass, 1 Sept - Kākā (Year 7-8) Mass, 22 September - Titipounamu (Year 0-3) Mass,**

Young Adult Discernment Event - Come join us for an evening of understanding discernment with the Missionaries of God's Love. You are invited to join us **at Sacred Heart Cathedral foyer, Hill Street, Wellington on Monday 24th August from 6.00pm.** The sisters will give a talk on discernment, share their own experiences and insights and we will have fellowship afterwards. Please register via the QR code.



BAPTISMS on 15 & 16 August 2026: We warmly welcome into our parish community: **Kiera Eve Anne Tranter, Ezra Guadez, Khirra To-Ong** who were baptised by Fr Gerard Burns on Sat, 15 August and **Jax Hoai—Nam Sharah** who were baptised by Fr Alfred Tong on Sunday 16 August. May the Lord's abundant blessings be with you always.



XLT Night – 'Ave' : Our next XLT night is **Friday, 28 August, from 7–9pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Main Road, Tawa.** This month's theme is 'Ave', as we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We're excited to welcome **Archbishop Paul**, who will speak about how, like Mary, we too are young people called by God.

Living Wage Election Forum

Join the Living Wage Movement election forum on **Wednesday 2 September, 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start at Naenae College, Lower Hutt,** to hear politicians' commitments to ensuring workers receive a Living Wage. All are welcome. For more information, contact Deirdre Meskill: d.meskill@cadw.nz

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.

Quote :

'As the guardian of a hope that enlightens the path, the Church is also invested with the mission of speaking clearly to reject everything that mortifies life and prevents its development, and to take a position in favour of the poor, the exploited, the victims of violence and war, and all those who suffer in body and in spirit.'

Pope Leo XIV, General Audience May 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

