



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 25 January 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 8: 23-9:3 ; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17 ; Matthew 4: 12-23

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 : **NO** Weekday Mass

Wed : 9am Weekday Mass

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

Important Dates

Weekday Masses Schedule for January 2026

NO Weekday Mass on Tuesday
Wednesday Mass/Liturgy: 9:00 am (no morning tea)

* Weekday Masses on Tuesday 5:30pm and Wednesday 11:00am will resume from :
1 February 2026

Reflections

Good as Gold.

'Good' is a very broad word. We identify what is Good in our lives through experience. Roses smell good, but not the largest flower in the world, also known as the Titan Arum, or "Corpse flower" (Amorphophallus Titanium). Just because something is large, or there are heaps of something doesn't mean that it's pleasant, beautiful or good.

Gold is a rare metal and we often use this comparison to something that is good. Even then it is not as rare as osmium. If something is good because it is rare, then certainly osmium will be better. But if we are looking at colour as a basis for what is good or not, then Gold certainly pleases the eye in a unique way that draws attention. Never tarnishing or corroding, and always keeping its shine, it is a joy to possess, as our lives are dazzled by it.

If gold only looks like goodness, but (despite fine restaurants putting gold leaf on food) it tastes like nothing, nor enhances the taste of the fish dish, then surely there must be something more joyful and fulfilling than gold. What could possibly make the early disciples drop the nets they were mending - their golden dreams, projects and aspirations they were desperately trying to fill their nets with, to "follow" the "Word made Flesh"? Does the Good News offer a taste better than gold to the beholder?

Ahakoia he iti he pounamu. As we trust God in the new year and cast our nets into the Word of God, may God fill our lives with "all that is good", to reflect the living Word that never tarnishes.

"God never tires of forgiving us, we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy"
- Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Fr Alfred

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Margaret Smith , Diann McLeod , Nancy Roche , Paul McClean, Fr Justin Taylor S.M., Br Doug Dawick F.S.M. ,

Anniversary: Jack Odell, Arra Shayne Saquido, Sabino Ibarra

Prayers for the sick: Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolofita 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.stfrancisochariu.nz>



Explore Life, Faith & Meaning – Try Alpha!

Join us for informal conversations about faith, connection, and what truly matters. Whether you're new to the Church or a lifelong Catholic, Alpha is a refreshing way to explore and renew your faith. Bring a friend!

Starts: **Tuesday, 3rd February 2026** at our parish. For more information, please contact us at: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

Visitation Ministry

Our parish has a dedicated team that brings Holy Communion to parishioners who are ill or unable to attend Mass, whether they are at home or in one of the care facilities in our parish area. Visits can be weekly or fortnightly, and full training and support are provided.

If you feel called to be part of this ministry, we would love to hear from you. Please contact **Joanne** at **021 043 6856** or byrnejoannem@gmail.com

Parish Synodal Gathering

Sunday, 22nd February 2026 | 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm (approx.)

Our parish community will come together for an afternoon of prayer, reflection, and renewal. This gathering is an opportunity to connect, share, and grow in faith as we journey together synodally.

Further details will be shared closer to the date.

Waitangi Day Mass:

Friday, February 6, 9am. Venue: St Mary of the Angels church, Boulcott St, Wellington. The annual Mass to mark Waitangi Day will be held at the national shrine of Mary, Whaea o te Atua (Mother of God) with Mons. Gerard Burns, VG, presiding. The Mass includes prayers and hymns in Māori, English, Latin and other languages. The church has a special artwork presenting Mary, dressed as a woman of Aotearoa and places connected with the history of the Church here, including Te Tii marae in Waitangi. All welcome, nau mai, haere mai!

World Youth Day 2027:

Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form below and email Regina Fernandes at : r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz for any questions.

Children's Liturgy : NO Children's Liturgy this weekend. Sessions will resume on **15 February 2026**.

St Brigid's School Car Parking – Sundays/Weekends

The school is preparing to install Astroturf on the recently dug-up playground areas. This is a significant financial and community investment by the school.

Once the Astroturf is in place, **driving or parking on it will not be permitted.**

For any questions, please contact: office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Safeguarding Workshops: All Parishioners Welcome

Two Safeguarding Workshops will be held on **Wednesday, 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

Annual Mission Fair – Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver

Saturday 21 February 2026, 10:00am–2:00pm

Convent Grounds, 1 Mersey Street, Island Bay

Saleable goods and donations are warmly welcomed. Enjoy a Rapid Raffle and a variety of stalls including toys, plants, jewellery, cakes, jams, and more.

Proceeds will support the purchase of water tanks in Kibuye-Bondo Kenya and construction of toilets for Nseng-Long parish and village in Cameroon.

For more information, contact the Sisters : (04) 383 8401.

St Valentine's Day Mass - the Archbishop invites you to

the annual celebration of married love. All engaged and married couples welcome. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm, **5.30pm on Saturday 14 February, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon.** Light refreshments to follow. Come along to this joyful Mass before your dinner reservation!

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation

Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website. Next course, consecutive **Sundays 1 & 8 March 10.00am-4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie.** Register early (couples attend both Sundays together in person). See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any queries contact: marriage@cadw.nz

What's on in Welly for young people? Have a youth group in your parish that you want to advertise? Or are you wanting to start up a youth/young adults group and don't know how? fill out the form below:

<https://forms.gle/LCCWGLpacmGzSFdA9> or email Regina Fernandes at r.fernandes@cadw.nz

Quote from Pope Leo :

"Thus, dear brothers and sisters, it is wonderful to become pilgrims of hope. It is wonderful for us to continue to be pilgrims together! The faithfulness of God continues to amaze us. If we do not reduce our churches to monuments, if our communities are homes, if we stand united and resist the flattery and seduction of those in power, then we will be the generation of a new dawn. Mary, Star of the Morning, will always walk before us! In her Son we will contemplate and serve an extraordinary humanity, transformed not by the delusions of the all-powerful, but by God who became flesh out of love."

Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 6 January 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**

