



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26 July 2026, Year A
Readings: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

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 : 11.30 am Grandparents
Mass with St Benedict's
School
5.30 pm Liturgy

Wed: 11.00 am Liturgy 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

26 July 2026

Sacramental Programme Session
at 11.15 am

1 August 2026

Liturgy workshop at Conolly Hall
at 9.30am -2.00pm

2 August 2026

Sacramental Programme Session
at 11.15 am

9 August 2026

First Sacrament of Reconciliation
at 2.00 pm

Reflection

Interesting Gospel today – it looks at the old and the new – the ongoing connection between old and new :

The most common view takes the “old” as the Old Testament, and Jesus’ teaching and the “new” as looking ahead to the future and Jesus’ Crucifixion, and His teaching about the Kingdom.

More easily understood is the suggestion the “new” supplants the “old” by suggesting that the new is the pearl of great price – and it is worth giving everything away to make it the guiding light – but with the caution that the old is yet to be brought out from time to time (every householder has in his store room things both old and new) Matthew does not envisage innovation in the moral law but he is not above practicing innovation to make the law more appealing and understandable. (apologies to New Jerome Biblical Commentary, p.657).

There is this ongoing linkage between the old and the new – Next week is the Feast Of the Transfiguration – that great linkage between old and new -the Old is represented by Moses who delivers the commandments (the first prophet) and Elijah the last of the Old Testament prophets both being seen handing over to Jesus (the new Testament prophet) thus fulfilling the law.

So as we progress through life, we must constantly keep our eyes fixed on the new , the future, but still retain the memories of the past – making sure that the past with all its rich memories and rituals does not become too nostalgic lest it try to smother the new.

Tony de Joux

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. For more details, please contact **Kitty : 021491459** , email:

kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz or **John: 0278467489**, email: john.kleinsman@gmail.com

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Charles Morris Hogan

Anniversary: Delia Flores Fabreag

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>

Jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi "WHAT IS THE WEATHER TELLING US?" A heartfelt thanks to **James Lunny, Meteorologist from MetService**, engaged parishioners to a spectacular and informative Saturday evening with weather balloons and instruments and the importance of understanding the natural environment through the weather, in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi. **Special thanks also to Billie Jakobsson** for coordinating the nourishing soup and toast which captured the spirit of celebrating Matariki and to **Antony Gomez and his team** for assistance in observing the wonder of "Sister Moon" and deep space star clusters in detail.



CLERGY JUBILEE CELEBRATION 2026 : Wednesday 29th July at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 11:00AM. Come and celebrate this special Jubilee Mass with the priests of the Archdiocese as we acknowledge:

Fr Frank Whitaker	65 years
Fr David Gledhill SM	60 years
Cardinal John Dew	50 years
Fr Joe Keegan	50 years
Fr Tom Rouse SSC	50 years
Fr Simi Volavola MSC	25 years



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.



BAPTISMS on 19 July 2026: We warmly welcome into our parish community: Juliana Moors - Leota, Alethea Moors - Leota, Candice Tinaye Lukosi, Dwayne Anotida Lukosi, Motheo Gift Mnisi, Siphesihle Alister Mnisi, Zanskulile Sine-themba Isaac Mahlangu who were baptised by Fr Alfred Tong.



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.

Parish Notice : Please be advised that both Fr Gerard and Fr Alfred will be away from 28-31 July for the Clergy gathering at the Archdiocese in town.

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.**

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.

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](#)).**

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: **Tuesday 28 July at 7.00-8.15pm. 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

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.

Alpha Marriage (Enrichment) Course

The Lamb of God Community invites married couples and couples preparing for marriage to the Alpha Marriage Course (Fees : \$10) on **Sundays 9, 16 & 23 August 2026 from 12.45 to 3.30 pm at St. John's Anglican Church, Johnsonville.** More info: log.marriagecourse@gmail.com

(Please note: this is NOT an official pre-marriage course required for Catholic weddings).

Quote :

'If you truly want to encounter the Risen Lord, then listen to his word, which is the Gospel of salvation. Reflect on your way of living, and seek justice in order to build a more humane world.'

Pope Leo XIV Prayer Vigil with Young People 2 August 2025

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**

