



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 5 July 2026, Year A
Readings: Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9,11-13; Matthew 11:25-30

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 : 5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30am Reconciliation
11.00am 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

14 July 2026

Liturgy Committee meeting at
7.00 pm

18 July 2026

WHAT IS THE WEATHER TELLING US
at 6.15 pm

28 July 2026

Grandparents Mass with St. Benedict's School at 11.30 am

1 August 2026

Liturgy workshop at Conolly Hall
at 10 am—2.30 pm

Reflection

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's first reading (Zech 9:9-10) speaks of Jerusalem as a place of peace from where weapons/conflict are banished. It picks up the city's name: 'city of peace' - Shalom/Salaam.

Recently the Catholic bishop of the area - the Latin (Roman) Patriarch in Jerusalem - wrote to his community about how they live their faith in the midst of ongoing, worsening conflict. The Christian community, mostly (but not solely) Arabic/Arabic-speaking, are living precariously. Their economic base (mostly tourism) has severely declined. Their buildings, farms and personnel suffer attacks from extremist illegal settlers with the cooperation of the Israeli army.

Cardinal Pizzaballa, reflects on the city as a place of plurality, unity, encounter and dialogue. In spite of all this is its vocation. He calls on his people to live this vocation in the midst of tremendous difficulty. He puts the Holy Family church in Gaza as example of steadfastness in the face of destruction.

The holy Land's Christian community remains under great threat. Expulsion of Palestinians continues: gradual, inexorable, deadly. Over 1000 people killed in Gaza since the ceasefire and diminishing living-space for Palestinians there (from 47% last October towards 30% now). Land-theft in the West Bank and Jerusalem continues apace.

The war of the US/Israel on Iran - ostensibly to protect Israel and others from Iranian aggression - is still rooted in the question of a just and fair solution to the Holy Land and Holy Places questions. Still pending.

Fr Gerard Burns

St. Benedict's Church Sale updates and Consultation draft report

Following the amalgamation of 3 northern suburbs parishes in 2016, the parish decided to consolidate onto one church site. As part of this process, St Benedict's property was put on the market and sold by closed tender in January 2026, with settlement due in September 2026. The buyer plans to develop residential units on the site subject to WCC approval. The final parish consultation meeting has been held and the draft report is expected soon. The draft report will be reviewed and released to the Parish for any final comments. We will update you once the report has been received.

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Merv O'Connor

Prayers for the sick: Irene Stonyer , Vaeluaga Aspinall , Sam Godinet, Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, 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, Delia Flores Fabreag



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

"WHAT IS THE WEATHER TELLING US?" As part of celebrating the **jubilee year of St Francis of Assisi**, you are invited to an evening of encounter with our natural environment with **James Lunny**, a meteorologist with MetService New Zealand. **Saturday, 18 July 2026 at 6.15 pm at SFOAO Church**. Weather permitting, a session with a Dobsonian telescope will complete the evening. For more information, contact Fr Alfred: alfred@stfrancisohariu.nz

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/.../1FAlpQLSeUuzs83RR.../viewform...>

Parish Liturgy Committee: next meeting Tues 14 July, 7pm: Interested in helping develop our liturgies and ceremonies? Join us in supporting sacristans, altar servers, and other ministers. New members welcome: talk to Fr. Gerard or Fr. Alfred or contact David Dobson, current Chair) daviddobson794@gmail.com In connection with liturgical formation, US liturgist and parish priest **Fr Paul Turner will lead a seminar, Saturday 1 August 2026, 10:00am-2:30pm, Connolly Hall, Hill Street, Wellington**. All involved in liturgical ministries are warmly encouraged to attend.

NOTICE – 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 9 August 2026, and 23 & 30 August, 13 September 2026**. **Children's Liturgy will be held on 16 August, 6 and 20 September 2026**. Thank you for your understanding.

Host a Cost of Living Workshop : The Archdiocese of Wellington Ecology Justice and Peace Commission is endorsing a Cost of Living resource grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. This free three-session workshop by Common Grace Aotearoa supports churches and faith communities engaging with key issues. To learn more visit: <https://www.commongrace.nz/thriving>

Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available: [Marriage - Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington](https://www.archdioceseofwellington.org.nz/marriage). Next course, **Sundays, 6 & 13 September from 10.00am - 4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie**. See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required or contact: marriage@cadw.nz

A Message of Gratitude from Katrina Ward and Family

We would like to acknowledge with heartfelt thanks those who faithfully prayed over our family throughout the pregnancy and the arrival of baby Katarina.

Parish Pyxes : A gentle reminder to parishioners who have a parish pyx: please return it to the sacristy as soon as possible so that it is available for the ministry to the sick and housebound. Thank you.

School Holiday Programme: Our Parish Outreach Team invites children aged 5-14 to our School Holiday Programme on **Tuesday 7 & 14 July, from 9:30am to 4:00pm at SFOAO Church Hall, Johnsonville**. And young people aged 14 and over to a **Wellington Out and About Day on Wednesday 8 July 9am to 4:30pm**. Numbers are limited. For further details please contact Kitty McKinley: 021491459 or email: triciamariedean@gmail.com for registration form.

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**.

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. Workshops will be held **from 7.00pm–8.15pm on Monday 20 July and Tuesday 28 July**. To register, email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz

St Thomas More Church, Wilton will close permanently on Sunday 30 August 2026. The organising committee has planned a Farewell Weekend and warmly invites ex-parishioners and all those associated with the church to attend. This includes an **Open Day on Saturday 29 August 2026 (11am–approx. 5pm)**, with time from 3pm to share and listen to stories, followed by the **Final Mass on Sunday 30 August at 4pm**, led by Archbishop Paul Martin.

World Youth Day 2027: Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form: <https://forms.gle/cz2MF9QGfjxRSTsBA> and email Regina Fernandes at: r.fernandes@cadw.nz

DELARGEY AWARDS 2026: Nominations are now open which recognise significant and outstanding ministry with young people. In addition to identifying key contributors to youth ministry, the awards provide a chance to highlight the Church's outreach to teens and young adults. The awards are named for Cardinal Reginald Delargey, former Archbishop of Wellington and Bishop of Auckland. **Nominations close on 31 July**. Details at : [Delargey 2026](https://www.archdioceseofwellington.org.nz/delargey)

Quote :

'God's presence offers light and life for all. The city is a new Eden, with its living water offered to the thirsty and its tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of nations. (Rev 22:2). As we await its fulfilment, this vision is set before us as an encouragement – a call to overcome our divisions and to work together – for this is the way of Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever.'

Pope XIV Magnifica Humanitas #242

Action: In what ways is this vision encouraging you to overcome divisions and work with others for healing our common home?

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**

