



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Second Sunday of Advent - 7 December 2025, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 ; Romans 15:4-9 ; Matthew 3:1-12

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns
g.burns@wn.catholic.org.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 : 5.00pm Reconciliation

5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation

11.00am Mass with
morning tea

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

Important Dates

Advent Pilgrimage of Hope

13 December

Christmas Eve

24 December Mass Time :

5.30 pm and 8.00 pm

Christmas Day

25 December Mass at 10 am

Reflections

"On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse."

When Isaiah wrote this his world was in a mess. His people were suffering, traumatised, in pain and in exile. His image was that of a tree stump in dead ground – maybe like Tongariro National park after the fire?

Today's world seems full of dead or dying stumps to me: Gaza, Ukraine and so many countries hit by natural disasters. Here in our country 485,600 of our brothers and sisters are living in poverty without basic needs. 156,600 of these are children. In our parish, families have lost a loved one, are homeless, have been made redundant, have a child diagnosed with a serious illness.

Today John the Baptist is walking in these sorts of wilderness. In Scripture, the wilderness is a place where we are when we feel stumpy, dying, dark. In that place of despair, conflict, pain, struggle, John's loud shout echoes: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

His shout stops us and takes us out of our daily busy lives. He is asking us to let the Lord speak with us, to think about what the coming of Jesus meant then and now. Imagine Jesus and you sitting on the stump of your life together. What is his message to you. Yours to him? What happens to your stumpiness? December is a time to listen and to respond to Scripture today. Can we do what John the Baptist is suggesting? Can we be like Mary this Advent? Can we say YES I'll carry and nurture the Lord inside me? So that a shoot of new life and hope can spring from me. Imagine us all doing this together – we would have a green healthy forest where peace reigns, enemies meet safely, all are fed, sheltered and cared for. What a signal of Jesus' life to and for all peoples. So this week let's sit on the stump to Prepare the Way of the Lord.

Kitty McKinley



Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Kathy McNeil , Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh , Ramon Pimentel

Anniversary: Antonio Fernandez

Prayers for the sick: Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen Godinez, Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh, 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.stfrancisochariu.nz>



Jubilee 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

An Advent parish pilgrimage of Hope! Saturday 13 December 2025!

Take the opportunity to visit some local Holy Sites: **Our Lady's**

Home of Compassion, Island Bay and Sacred Heart Cathedral Thorndon. A time to reflect on Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. **Schedule:**

- Meet at Home of Compassion (2 Rhine St) by 9.30am in the Chapel of Suzanne Aubert.
- Need a lift? Contact Robert McClean : leaving St Francis of Assisi (Dr Taylor Tce) at 8.45 for 9am departure
- Morning tea at the Cloister Café (purchase your own).
- Then on to Sacred Heart Cathedral, gathering in the Chapel by 11am. Return to Johnsonville by 12.30pm.

Evening carols: After 5 pm Vigil Mass, we complete the pilgrimage with a dinner and carols in the church hall, St Francis of Assisi. Invite family, friends, co-workers... Please complete this registration form for this event (click on the link): <https://forms.gle/TRCd6LS2kNCPxki8>. Contact Robert McClean, 022 067 6655 for further information.

Volunteer as a member of the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission in 2026

Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching and keen to support justice and peace? The Archdiocesan EJP Commission and its committees (Integral Ecology, Social Equity, Bicultural Relations) are seeking new members for 2026. Members help promote the Church's social teaching and highlight issues of injustice through activities such as parliamentary submissions, the Housing Forum, Te Tiriti events, Season of Creation, World Day of the Poor, and Living Wage advocacy. Learn more at the Archdiocesan website or contact facilitator Deirdre Meskill: d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz / 021 221 3944.

Celebrating Our Stories: The "Book of Life"

The Book of Life is a living testament to the blessings, memories, and stories of our St. Francis of Assisi Parish Family. Created to celebrate and promote life, it reflects the faith journey we share as a community. We invite every parish member to contribute. **How to Share:**

Drop Off: Place your contribution in the secure box in the church foyer.

Email: Send it to our coordinator, Fiona Kearns, at fionakearnz@gmail.com.

Your shared stories and blessings make this book a treasured celebration of faith. The Book of Life holds a place of honor and is presented at Mass every three months during the Offertory Procession, when we come together in prayer and reverence for life.

A new defibrillator has been installed in the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu church hall. It is located on the right-hand (northern) wall near the folding doors to the church. This purchase follows several recent health-related incidents in our parish, and **training will be offered in 2026** for anyone wishing to learn how to use it.

Advent Penitential Service – Sunday, 14 December

Prepare your heart for Christmas with **Reconciliation at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa. Time: 4:15 pm**

All are welcome to come and reflect, seek forgiveness, and experience God's mercy.



Explore life, faith & meaning... TRY ALPHA! Join us for an open and informal space to explore faith with others. Whether you're new to the Church or a cradle Catholic, Alpha offers a refreshing way to renew your faith, connect with others, and have meaningful conversations about what truly matters. It's also the perfect place to invite friends or colleagues who may have questions! Starting in our parish on **TUESDAY 3rd February 2026**. Join us, and bring a friend! For more information, please contact us at: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

St. Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish



CHRISTMAS MASS TIME

Christmas Eve Mass 24 Dec 2025:

5.30 pm and 8.00 pm

Christmas Day Mass : 25 Dec 2025 : 10.00 am

New Year Day Mass : 1 January 2026 at 9.00 am

Christmas Hampers – St Vincent de Paul Help families in need this Christmas! We are still accepting donations of sweet treats (tinned fruit, chocolates, biscuits).

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision

- register online on the Archdiocesan website for the next course, consecutive **Sundays, 1 and 8 March 2026**. Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. Courses are offered four times a year - they will run in March, June, September and November 2026. For queries please email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

Quote from Pope Leo :

'It is only by returning to the heart that a true ecological conversion can take place. We must shift from collecting data to caring; and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles. For believers, this conversion is in fact no different to the one that orients us towards the living God. We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures. Nor can we call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded.'

Pope Leo XIV, "Raising Hope" Conference on the Tenth Anniversary of the Encyclical Laudato Si' 1 Oct 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**

