



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

**Third Sunday of Lent - 8 March 2026, Year A**  
**Readings: Exodus 17:3-7 ; Romans 5:1-2,5-8 ; John 4:5-42**

## 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 Mass**

### Weekdays Mass Time

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

5.00pm Reconciliation

5.30pm Mass

Wed: 11.00am Liturgy (with  
morning tea)

**Reconciliation** : Every Friday  
during Lent at 6.30-7.30 pm or  
by arrangement with office 04  
478 7137

## Important Dates

**8 March 2026**

Iftar Meal

**29 March 2026**

Passion Sunday

**1 April 2026**

Chrim Mass at Sacred Heart  
Cathedral 7.30 pm

## Reflection



### Aqua Vitae – Water of Life

Approximately 71% of the earth's surface is covered by water. Water is one of the essential elements of our planet and necessary for sustaining life on the earth, in the oceans and the atmosphere. Humans can survive for 3-5 days without water.

Moses appeals to God when the thirsty people in the desert grumbled about lack of water for themselves and their cattle. Moses did as God asked and struck the rock with his staff and water gushed forth. The people's trust in God was being tested – did they trust God or did they not? – Instead, they had put God to the test!

Paul reminds us that our hope for life is poured into our hearts through love by the Spirit of God, even though at the time our trust in the goodness of God may have been at a low ebb.

By Faith can we drink of this life-giving love. In the heat of midday Jesus asks the woman at the well to give her a drink of water. The woman, who was normally treated as an outcast because she was of a culture with whom Jewish people did not associate, was surprised. "It should be me who is asking you for a drink" she replied. Jesus filled her cup with water that would quench her thirst forever because it came from a spring welling up inside her. The woman shared the amazing new reality with everyone around. Many on the strength of her word also believed. They too were thirsty for the water of life everlasting that Jesus was offering to those who believed.

How thirsty am I for a refreshing drink from the Spring of the water of everlasting life? This Lent let us think about how we reply to what Jesus' offering.

**Judy McCormack**

## Remembering the Holy Souls

### Recently Deceased :

**Anniversary:** William James Cooney

**Prayers for the sick:** Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita 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.stfrancisoHariu.nz>

## Children's Day Celebration 1 March 2026



We had a joyful 10am Mass at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish as we celebrated the gift of our children, followed by a fantastic turnout of families for the festivities. With



beautiful weather and fun activities organised by Challenge 2000. It was a wonderful day for all. Thank you to everyone who made it so special!

**Our first Theology on Tap for Young Adults** is on Monday, **9th March at 6.00pm** at the Sprig & Fern, 342 Tinakori Road, Thorndon with Fr Tomasz! Come along to hear a talk from him and grab a cheeky bevv and some food. All are welcome!

### Notice : Visiting priest – 15 March 2026

Fr Tomasz Gdula, Deputy Head of Mission from the Papal Nunciature in Wellington, will celebrate our 10am Mass on 15 March as Fr Gerard will be away. The Apostolic Nuncio, Gábor Pintér, is the Pope's representative in New Zealand and across the Pacific.

### Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship :

Come and join other men at Joshua Wellington's next meeting on **Thursday 19th March 2026** from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall 10 Guildford Terrace (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral). Speaker: Monsignor Gerard Burns on "The relevance of faith in 2026" Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280 or email: [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

### Chrim Mass

You are warmly invited to attend the Chrim Mass on Wednesday, **1 April, 7.30pm** at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon. All parishioners are encouraged to come and take part in this significant and prayerful liturgy.

**VOCATIONS WEEKEND : HAS ANYONE EVER SAID YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD PRIEST?** Do you think you might have a vocation? Come to a **VOCATIONS WEEKEND** for young men discerning priesthood. **27-29 March 2026** with Fr Alan Roberts. For more information and register contact: Lucienne [l.hensel@cadw.nz](mailto:l.hensel@cadw.nz)

**Rite of Election** : On Sunday, 1 March, two of our catechumens **Peter Mattiassi and Naveen Suthar** had the joy of attending the Rite of Election at Sacred Heart Cathedral, officially becoming elects as they continue their journey toward Baptism. We also celebrated **Alastair's** Rite of Election here at our parish on **Wednesday, 4 March**, with Fr Alfred presiding. Let us keep all our elects in our prayers.



**Holy Hour – Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.** Join us at SFOA on **Wednesdays, March 11, 18, and 25 at 7pm** for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Pray with our Catechumens as they grow in faith. Reconciliation available upon request.

### Celebrating Our Stories: The "Book of Life"

The Book of Life honours the blessings and faith journeys of our St. Francis of Assisi Parish family. Parishioners are invited to contribute by placing submissions in the church foyer box or emailing [fionakearnz@gmail.com](mailto:fionakearnz@gmail.com). It will be presented on 28 March during the Offertory Procession.

### Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now!

Enrolments are now open for St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish's 2026 Sacramental Programme. Full schedule and details are on the website. Enrolments close strictly 1 July 2026. Download your application form our website [\[here\]](#). Or contact our sacramental programme team at : [sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz)

### Quote from Pope Leo :

*'At times, preaching the message that hope does not disappoint means swimming against the tide, even in certain painful situations that appear to be hopeless. Yet it is precisely at those times when it becomes all the more apparent that our faith and our hope do not come from ourselves, but from God. If we are truly close to those who suffer, the Holy Spirit can revive in their hearts even a flame that has all but died out .'*

Pope Leo XIV, Meditation, Saint Peter's Basilica, 25 June 2025

**Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville**

**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm

**Email:** [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto: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](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

Account name: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha: **02-0524-0203642-00**

