

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 8 September 2019
Readings: Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9:10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

Theme for the Month:
Community

Pauline and Ted White are long-time parishioners of the St Peter and Paul church community. Both are very involved in community building at many levels of parish life. At the "Community" theme team meeting last Monday night, Ted volunteered to write the reflection for this weekend's newsletter. How wonderful! This is quite a risk. Thank you, Ted! At the same meeting, Robyn Rodomski from St Benedict's church community offered to write prayers of the faithful for this weekend. Thank you, Robyn!

Community

This week's readings lay out startling challenges. The author of Wisdom, probably King Solomon, prays for wisdom to know what pleases God. The psalmist expects that God's love will make us sing and be happy.

In his letter to Philemon and his congregation, Paul returns Onesimus, whom they considered useless, as someone who will be a brother to them. Paul would be glad to keep Onesimus with him while he waits in prison but he is sending him back to Philemon and the others. Luke recounts how Jesus wants his disciples to renounce their close relations to "carry (their) cross and come after me." Disciples are to "give up all (their) possessions." This week's readings remind us how hard it is to be a Christian. Doing the hard stuff should encourage us to be part of a community.

Community – getting to know each other better is the parish theme of September. Ways we can get to know each other better include simple stuff we might have overlooked. We can break our habits by arriving early, sitting in different places in the church, and greeting each other. We can invite someone to our home or to a café for a cup of tea or coffee. Eventually we will be ready for the big step of going to a different Mass at a different church within our parish.

Watch newsletters and notice boards for opportunities to reach out within our parish community. The readings remind us how important it is to reach out to people and welcome them into our community.

Ted White

Archdiocese of Wellington Social Justice Week event
Wednesday 11 September, 6.00-7.30pm, Connolly Hall, Thorndon, Wellington
Come join us this Social Justice Week, as we explore fairness and unfairness in relation to work experiences of construction and healthcare workers in our Archdiocese

- Representatives of the Barangay Sta. Maria Assumpta/Filipino Chaplaincy Outreach Ministry
- Cardinal John Dew
- Hon. Iain Lees-Galloway, Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

For more information, please contact Lisa Beech l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz

Mass change of venue
Saturday 28 September
The 5pm Vigil normally held at Johnsonville will be transferred to Newlands on this occasion to allow for a special event booking.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY 8 September
Malvina Major Eucharistic Liturgy

10.30am in Chapel

Workshop with Fr John Pettit

2-4pm Johnsonville

"What can we do about our Earth?"



MONDAY 9 September

Christian Meditation 7pm St Benedict's Church

LFT Meeting 7pm in the Johnsonville Presbytery

TUESDAY 10 September

Workshop with Fr John Pettit 1-3pm Johnsonville

"What can we do about our Earth?"

THURSDAY 12 September

Music Group Practice 7.30pm St Benedict's Church

FRIDAY 13 September

Divine Mercy 6.30pm at St Andrew's Church.

SATURDAY 14 September

Youth 4 Christ 1-6pm St Andrew's Church

SUNDAY 15 September

Malvina Major Eucharistic Liturgy 10.30am in Chapel

Newlands St Vincent de Paul Conference 11am at St Andrew's Newlands in the Chapel

Social Justice Week and Maori Language Week : 8 - 14 September

The theme for this year's Social Justice Week is FAIRNESS. The theme for Maori Language Week is KIA KAHA TE REO MAORI. Caritas has prepared study booklets for those who wish to explore the topic more deeply. Please contact the parish office if you would like a booklet. There are plenty of leaflets available. These are designed to help us become more alert and aware of issues of FAIRNESS in our daily lives. It would be good if each family took a copy of the pamphlet and talked about it together.

Preference Certificates: To obtain a Preference Certificate for entry to a Catholic School, please contact the Parish Office Email ohariuparish@xtra.co.nz

PARISH NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please remember those who are ill: Mary Cummins, Tabea Squire, Frances Willetts, Beven Francisco, Stan George, Malia Lemalu, Seniorita Laukau, Petelo Godinet, Abbey Washington, Margaret D'Souza, Peter McKenzie, Ian Coleman, Jan Chandler, John Duffy, Ross Gundersen.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY THEME EVENTS

Father John Pettit leads two workshops focussing on what each of us and our parish community can do to care for the home we live in. His basis of reflection and suggestions for action will be Laudato Si: Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on Climate change.

Sunday September 8th: What we can do about our Earth? 2pm-4pm

Tuesday September 10th : What we can do about our Earth? 1-3pm This is a repeat of Sundays workshop
Where: Ss Peter and Pauls Johnsonville Presbytery or Church.

Along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society". (Laudato Si 231)

Social Justice Week Sunday 8-14 will be launched in our parish with a Children's Mass at St Benedict's at 9am on Sunday September 8 and closed with a Youth Mass at 10.30am at Ss Peter and Pauls on Sunday 15th. The Theme set by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference is: FAIR – YOU SAY and is based on that golden rule from Matthews Gospel (7-12). "Do unto others what you would have them do to you". A fitting guideline for our Community theme here in Ohariu this month.

As part of our Parish theme month on Community in September, **the Focolare group**, who reside in our parish are kindly offering to facilitate the following:
Be inspired by reading together and share insights in a group, THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE OF POPE FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD.

Initially Johnsonville Parish Hall on **Tuesday 24 Sept** at 10.30am and on Thursday 26 September at 7.30pm.
Register your interest on the forms in the back of the church or ring the Parish office, 044787137 for additional information.

Next Week's Readings:

Exodus 32:7-11; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

Vital Reading: Please take a copy and read carefully **The Nathaniel Report** - August 2019. It contains well researched and very challenging articles on ethical issues, including two bills currently being considered in the New Zealand parliament. Also available - guidelines for preparing submissions, written by Nathaniel Centre.

Free copy of a special edition of **Family Life** magazine.

August Collections total \$23,423.60



Parish Helpers

We welcome back Margie Crook who will be working at the Khandallah office on Fridays and Graham Cooper who will be helping to count money on Monday mornings

News from the Archdiocese

11 Sept: Social Justice Week event. 6 to 7.30pm at Connolly Hall. Exploring fairness in the construction and healthcare areas. Contact Lisa at l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz

12 Sept: St. Mary's College PTFA Fundraiser

QUIZ NIGHT at The Shepherds Arms, Tinakori Road
Tickets are now on sale, on-line at this link: <https://booking.co.nz/CGS>

17 Sept: Mass for the abortion pilgrims 7pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Tawa.

19 Sept: Joshua Catholic Fellowship 7.30pm Connolly Hall. Theme: Pornography harms and safeguards

19 Sept: The final date for **submissions on Abortion**
Check our website www.LoveThemBoth.nz

20 September: Downton Abbey **Movie Fundraiser.** 8pm Penthouse Theatre. Proceeds to Friend of the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Tickets \$20

21 September: Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women 1.30pm Connolly Hall. Speaker Jane Thomsen "Put on the full armour of God". Contact Shura 021 0724042

21 Sept: Stewardship Network Meeting at Sacred Heart Hall in Petone from 1 to 4pm. Cardinal John will be speaking.
21 Sept: Vigil for the Unborn St Anne's Church Newtown. Starts with Mass at 10am

25 Sept: Mass for those affected by Divorce or Separation. St Peter & Pauls Church Lower Hutt 7pm

28/29 Sept: Vinnies Book Fair St Anne's Church Newtown all day. Volunteers contact Millie on 3897122

REMEMBERING THE HOLY SOULS -

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

RIP: Bernie McSweeney

Anniversaries: Peter Cross, Joan Prior,

Margaret Johnstone, Peter Bleakley, Leo and Nellie Mulqueen



St Francis of Assisi



St Peter & Paul's Church
37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Saturday Vigil 5pm
Sunday Mass 9am, 10.30am

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Tues: 9.15am Mass
Wed: 11am Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Friday: 9am Mass

St Andrew's Church
27 Trebann St, Newlands
Sunday Mass 12pm

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Friday: 6.30pm Rosary & Divine Mercy

Parish Office
 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville
 Email: ohariuparish@xtra.co.nz
www.stfrancisohariu.nz
 phone 478 7137

St Benedict's Church, 3 Everest St, Khn

Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday Mass 9am

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Mon: 9am Liturgy of the word with Communion
Tues: 9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Wed: 9.15 Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Thurs: 9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Friday: 9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Sat: 9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

St Benedict's School, Khandallah - Ph 04 479 6878 E-mail: office@st-benedicts.school.nz

St Brigid's School, Johnsonville - Ph 04 478 6516 E-mail: office@stbrigids.school.nz

Living as a Eucharistic Community in a Time of Transition

– Opportunity or Loss?

"The Eucharistic sacrifice is the source and summit of the Christian life." Lumen Gentium, Chapter II

As a Parish, we have recently been focussing on the theme of Eucharist and what it means to be a Eucharistic community. In the next three months we will use the themes of Mission, Community and Prayer to hopefully come to an even deeper understanding of the meaning and implications of the Eucharist.

The Sunday community celebration of the Eucharist is central to our Catholic identity. However, our Catholic identity as missionary disciples called to witness to God's love and mercy clearly demands more than attendance at Mass. The ultimate measure of being a faithful faith-filled Eucharistic community is evident in the way we live out the Eucharist: by being Eucharist to others and by bringing justice and healing to our broken world; by imitating Jesus who, in every Eucharist, stands before us and gifts himself totally and without reserve to us: 'This is my body broken for you. This is my blood poured out for you.' As we are nourished, so we must in turn bring nourishment. As we are sustained, so we must also sustain others. As Jesus pours out his blood for us so we must pour out our blood for the world. Jesus said at the Last Supper, 'Do this in memory of me' and this is what it means to hold the memory of Jesus.

The New Zealand Church faces a new and significant challenge at this point in our history. What previous generations of Catholics have taken for granted – the availability of a priest in every parish to celebrate the Eucharist and provide pastoral care – is no longer a reality. Looking to the future, the questions we must ask are: 'How can we maintain the Eucharistic sacrifice as the source and summit of our community life?' 'How can we continue to be a Eucharistic community when there may not be a priest available to celebrate the Eucharist on a regular basis?' 'How can we best prepare for that time?'

While we are not at that point yet, our parish is clearly in a time of transition brought on last year by Cardinal John's inability to appoint a full-time parish priest. We are indebted to the Society of Mary who have made a 3-year commitment, from 2019 to 2021, to help us prepare for what will be a very different future.

To date, the generosity of the Marists has enabled us to maintain the six weekend masses we have been accustomed to for the past few years. That number of masses is now no longer sustainable given the ages and health of the Marist priests as well as their other commitments. What is sustainable for now is four masses per weekend. However, even before we have implemented that change, it is already clear that having four masses is not sustainable in the longer-term.

Therefore, if we are to continue as a vibrant Eucharistic Community beyond 2021, we need to prepare for a situation when a different type of Eucharistic and pastoral leadership will be required in our parish. This leadership will need to come from people chosen from among ourselves and formed for that purpose.

For now, that means our discussions about the Eucharist, while they will necessarily include a focus on mass times, must quickly move beyond such questions. When the Marist Society agreed to act in partnership with us and the Diocese, their purpose was not to maintain the status quo, but rather to walk alongside us into that inevitable future of fewer priests defined by a new reality of lay leadership and responsibility.

Therefore, as we contemplate a future of even fewer priests than there are now, the much bigger and much more important challenge is to commit ourselves to a programme of formation of new lay leaders prepared to take on responsibility for roles that have been traditionally filled by priests; roles that remain critical to our identity as a faithful Eucharist community.

Change is difficult. The changes we must face to survive and thrive as a Church are all about maintaining the one thing that must not change – our faithfulness to the Mission instituted by Jesus and nourished through the Eucharist and God’s word. We can choose to see this as a time of new opportunity led by the Holy Spirit; an opportunity that, while born out of loss, has the potential to bring new life and vigour to the Body of Christ that is St Francis of Ohariu parish.

We will be initiating parish-wide consultation during the month of September, related to the reduction in Masses that is now required, with the changes taking effect from November. To reiterate, the consultation will not be about whether the current numbers of Masses can be maintained – that is not an option given the demographics of our priests.

In summary, the consultation will, initially, be about the timing of Masses amongst the three worshipping communities. Much more importantly, however, it must also (i) be about developing our vision for discerning new ways of carrying out pastoral care within the parish and in our various communities, and (ii) be about how to achieve the formation in leadership across the parish that will ensure our identity as a vibrant Eucharistic community into the very different church of the future.

Leadership Formation Team – 6 Sept 2019