



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI



22nd Sunday Ordinary Time 30 August 2020 Year A
Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9 ; Romans 12:1-2 ; Matthew 16:21-27

Covid-19 Update

Weekday and Saturday morning Masses/Liturgies shall continue during level 2. Sunday masses and Saturday Night Vigil's are suspended until level 1. For more information visit <http://stfrancisohariu.nz/updates/staying-connected-covid-19/>

THERE is a COST in FOLLOWING JESUS:

I believe a religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing.

There is a difference between those who follow Christ for fishes and loaves (the crowds who just want to be fed), and those who follow Christ with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.

Poor Apostle Peter! Last week he was the Rock on which the Church was to be built; this week he's called Satan! In those times the term 'Satan' originally meant adversary or accuser. Later it came to mean the personification of evil

But misunderstanding and being misunderstood is all part and parcel of the cost of discipleship.

The word discipleship comes from discipline and discipline is never warmly welcomed. Peter is protesting against the struggle, the pain, the failure and the rejection that Jesus foretells.

It is this pain, failure and rejection which many are not willing to accept as a price for following Christ today.

Following Christ costs us. What must be paid is a willingness to let go of our hunger for security, approval, comfort, self-entitlement; to take up our own cross of love and give ourselves away; to abandon our images of success and schemes of self-indulgence.

Yes, this takes work and discipline so as to be a follower of Christ.

In my own personal life every time my mind and heart begins bitterly replaying, like an old cassette recorder, old conversations, old wounds, old rejections, and old injustices, old institutional memories of people I don't like, when everything inside of me wants to scream: "This isn't fair!" "How dare he/she say that!" "How can she/he do that, after all I did for her/him!" "I so dislike these people!" "Why do I always get side lined?", we are being tormented by 'Satan' and need to say: "Get behind me, Satan!" There will be no joy, no growth or goodness, no moral strength in our lives until those obsessions leave us alone. This is part of our discipleship and the call to fully realise, God doesn't make junk, so why hang onto junk that paralyses us from living life to the full.

Pete Roe SM

Leadership Formation Team News

The Parish AGM new date is set 22 October 2020 (provided we are at Level 1)

In preparation each week we will offer a section of Archdiocesan Synod Self-review Tool. Hopefully this will encourage us in things that are going well, identify gaps and create some clear priorities and areas to focus on in the future.

Haere, tukuna... ki te whakawhanake i te wairua pononga.

Go, you are sent to develop a spirituality of service.

These actions were proposed in 2017. How we doing?

- Begin every parish meeting with at least 10 minutes of prayer/reflection.
- Have Scripture based options such as Lectio Divina in parish groups.
- Promote Christian meditation in schools and among adults.
- Develop many and varied spiritual practices outside of Mass
- Have regular specified times for Reconciliation, not by appointment only.
- Make churches accessible on a daily basis for private prayer.
- Promote formation and Scripture based programmes in the community for all.
- Employ an Archdiocesan music coordinator to help upgrade our music.
- Encourage music ministry in all forms, including music by young people.
- Archdiocesan meetings with liturgy people for ongoing formation and support.
- Retain tradition but make worship relevant and meaningful in relationship with Christ.
- Set up an "inject Vitality Group" to explore music, visual, testimonies, suggestion box, live streaming of regional Masses.
- Invite youth leaders to visit parishes regularly to lead Masses.
- Study the Papal Encyclicals in groups.
- Organize small group programmes relevant for Church seasons.
- Grow awareness and desire for faith formation and leadership (including parish-based activities) through testimonials, inspirational (TED-like) talks, mentoring programmes.
- Budget for 10 or so people per year to study the Catholic faith
- Create a group in the parish whose role is to foster spiritual growth.
- Intentionally create opportunities for people to share their life experiences, relating to the gospel of the day.
- Laity give homilies or testimonies sometimes.
- In the homily give some formation on a deeper understanding of the Mass.
- Provide opportunities to hear challenging reflections on the Gospel from lay people, or other denominations.
- Enhance the dismissal rite at the end of Mass to encourage everyone to go out to be missionaries.



"Many people want to return to normality and resume economic activities.

Certainly, but this "normality" should not include social injustices and the degradation of the environment. The pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse. We must come out of it better, to counter social injustice and environmental damage.

Today we have an opportunity to build something different."

-Pope Francis: General Audience 19 August 2020

Sign of the Cross

Ki te ingoa o te Matua,
o te Tamaiti,
o te Wairua Tapu.
Āmene.



The Ministry of the Week – Visiting the Sick

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and are a model for how we should treat all others. They respond to the basic needs of humanity. They are: Feed the Hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Visit the Prisoners, Bury the Dead, Give to the Poor, **Visit the sick.**

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these people still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

In the St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish there is a team of dedicated parishioners in each of our church communities who regularly visit people who live at home, or in one of the four rest homes in our Parish area, to deliver.

- Holy Communion
- Prayers
- Conversation and newsletters
- Family liaison and support

A priest can be available to administer the Sacrament of the Sick and to give assistance when required. For most of the time it is our Lay Ministers to the Sick who pray and anoint.

To support others we could also:

- Give blood.
- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home—get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbour.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis.
- Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.

If you would like to be involved, or know someone who would benefit from our ministry, contact coordinator Pauline White: paulinetedw@gmail.com or call the Parish Office

Celebrating the Sunday of the Word of God.

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the only Word of God. This is not wrong, and God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

Pope Francis suggests the following ways to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God:

- Have your BIBLE open on one of the readings as a centre point – with candle lit (Highlight the proclamation of the Word of the Lord)
- Welcome: Gently reflect on our lives and areas that we ask for healing... Lord you heal us- Lord have mercy
- Gathering Prayer: Readings or maybe just the Gospel
- Reflection time: From the reflection and readings share prayers for all people in our lives and throughout the world
- Quiet time :Encourage one another to read and pray with scriptures daily – keep a journal of your thoughts and actions
- Someone to close with a prayer and blessing.

Since once again, Lord, I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar to say Mass,
I will make the whole earth my altar
and on it will offer you all the labors and all the sufferings of the world.

Instead of bread, I will offer the harvest to be won by today's labors. Lord, say again the words: This is my Body over every living thing which will spring up, grow, flower, ripen during this day.

Instead of wine, I will offer every activity and force that withers, corrodes, fails, and dies; into my chalice I shall pour all the sap to be pressed from the earth's fruits. Lord, say again the words: This is my Blood

All the things which today will increase; all those that will diminish or die: all of them, Lord, I try to gather into my arms, holding them out to you.

We believe you are present in them.
This is the Mystery of Faith.

— Adapted from *Mass on the World* by Jesuit Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Additional Mass and Prayer Opportunities:

During this Level 2 Covid-19 time when there are no Sunday masses we are having additional praying opportunities for those daily employment or who are unable to attend mass on weekday mornings.

Additional Masses over the next two weeks include:

St Benedict's Church Centre: Additional Masses on Friday and Saturday mornings at 9am

St Peter and Paul's Church Centre: Additional Mass on a Saturday at 10.00am and Thursday 5.30pm.

Youth Pizza Night!

On the **3rd of September** from **6:30-8:30pm** the **S.F.O.A Youth Ministry** team are hosting a **pizza night** for youth in and around the parish who have an interest in formation and social justice at the St Peter & Paul Church Hall in Johnsonville!



Would be fantastic to have you come along even if just for a catch up!

Please contact Sio on 021 081 60396 if you would like to come!

New Eucharistic Liturgy at St Peter and Paul's on Monday's.

There will now be a Eucharistic Liturgy held at St Peter and Paul's church every **Monday at 7pm** starting on **Monday 31st August 2020**.

A Reflection Story:

We need more of the attitude of the young boy who ran the mile for his school in a high school competition.

The command came, "On your mark, get set," and then the pistol cracked and the race was on. One competitor sprang to the lead, and when the race was finished he had broken the record.

Only a few other runners even finished the race. Many dropped out when they saw they could not win. Then the workers started to bring out the hurdles for the next race. One of the judges yelled, "Get those hurdles out of the way. This race is not over. Look!" And around the turn came a runner, panting, and staggering. The crowd stood in silent disbelief as he made his way over the last hundred yards, and literally fell across the finish- line.

One of the judges ran to the boy, "Son, why didn't you drop out? What are you doing in this race anyway?"

Between gasps, the boy explained

that his school had a good miler who had become sick just a few days before. The coach had promised to have a man in every event, and so he asked me to run the mile. "Well son, why didn't you just drop out when you saw that you had lost?"

The boy answered, "Judge, they didn't send me here to quit. They didn't send me here to win. They sent me here to run this race and I ran it!" That is the heart of a disciple – of one who is committed/disciplined to do what is asked.



Pete Roe SM

Special Events this Past Week:

Saturday August 22nd in Johnsonville we celebrated the **Queen ship of Mary**. The statue of Mary pictured here, originally lived in the Brigidine Convent and then she went to the Sisters new home when they shifted.

In August 2017 Challenge 2000 moved into the old convent at 1 Wanaka Street. The old Convent was purchased by the Society of Mary (Marists) for Challenge to support Challenge's work with young people, their families and the community and church.

Sister Cyprian then gifted Mary back to her first home where she continues to watch over and guide Challenge's ministry. Mary was carried over tot the Church for this Mass and will return whenever she is needed.



On Thursday Mass was offered for those who have died recently:

Sadly last week Eustie Kamath's mum Fifine Sequeira, died of Covid-19 in India. Eustie, a long time member of our parish community spoke of his mum and her wonderful caring life.

We also prayed for and remembered Ruth Spelman who died in Auckland on Monday. Ruth is the mum of parishioners Julia Spelman and Heath Hutton. It was a lovely prayerful time together on the feast of St Monica who was herself a wonderful mum, confident and strong loving woman.



Youth Leadership and Personal Development:

Good luck to Aroha as she left for Outward Bound this week. Aroha is one of our Youth Ministry team and she was selected to go to Outward Bound. Challenge 2000 is sponsoring her to attend this amazing programme.

On Wednesday we had a socially distanced blessing Liturgy and we look forward to hearing of her achievements. If you would like to be considered for such a programme and are aged between 18 and 25 then please do talk to Piki or Sio our Youth Ministers or email youth@stfrancisohariu.nz.



Upcoming Events

UPDATE: Archdiocese of Wellington Election Forum on environmental and climate change issues

This event is going ahead as a **livestreamed event** on **1 September from 6-8pm. Please note we are no longer holding a public meeting.** We invite you to join us from home in viewing live as young people of the Archdiocese question political party representatives about their environmental and climate change policies at https://youtu.be/Dpog-Gva3_M. The discussion will be chaired by Dr Areti Metuamate of Te Kupenga – Catholic Leadership Institute and there will be an opening address by Cardinal John Dew. The video will also be available for viewing following the event. For more information, please contact Lisa Beech – Ecology, Justice and Peace Advisor, l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz 0212884388

Human Love in the Divine Plan (Theology of the Body)- *First intake in Wellington!* Courses for Young Adults (ages 18-35 years) on **September 5 & 6**, and for Adults on **September 19 & 20**. Venue: Challenge 2000, 1 Wanaka St, Johnsonville, Wellington. The courses will be run by Maria Pais. General Registration: \$50.00. Contact 0220289737 or email info@marriageandfamily.org.nz for more information.

"Understanding Change. Loss and Grief": *Seasons for Growth* Grief Seminar Saturday, 19th September, 2.00-4.00pm, Ss Peter and Paul's Church

An informative and interactive workshop for all who are journeying with the grieving or interested in finding out more about the grief process. It is also an opportunity for self-reflection and self-care. For further information and/or registration, please contact Katrin Eickhorst on 021 374 405 or seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz.

Online Session (Evening): Mary, the Mother of God – A Contemporary Understanding of Mary with Br Kieran Fenn who has a wonderful way of bringing Scripture alive. Topic on **Monday, 31 August, 7-8.30pm: Mary in Paul, Mark, and Matthew**. Fee: \$25/session. Special fees for groups of more than 2 persons. ZOOM. For more information and registration: info@studyjoy.nz

See also: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-teaching-mary-mother-of-god-i-with-kieran-fenn-fms-3/>

Johnsonville-Newlands First Communion Programme 2020

First Communion programme this Sunday on the **30th August 1pm** at **SS Peters and Paul church**. We will be following the level 2 Covid-19 guidelines, signing children in and using social distancing measures while in the church running our session. All are welcome regardless of age. There will now be meetings every Sunday for the next three Sundays and the First Communion Mass will be on **Sunday September 20th at 2pm**. Should Covid-19 Level 2 remain then we will have two masses that afternoon to accommodate everyone. Any questions contact Sio 02108160396 or Ellen at the Parish Office ohariuparish@xtra.co.nz.

MASS INTENTIONS

Though there will not be public masses this weekend our Marist priests will be praying for us all and your particular intentions when they celebrate mass.



We ask for your prayers - Masses have been offered for

Fifine Sequeira, aged 91, mother of Eustie Kamath, passed away on August 25 as a result of Covid-19 in Bengaluru, India—RIP

Ruth Spelman, Mother of Julia Spelman and Mother in-law of Heath Hutton who died in Auckland on August 24—RIP

Sr Nance csb—RIP

RIP Anniversary—Doris Bose, Yvette Hermon, Yvonne Joachim Ranasinge, Freddie Dias, Bernie McSweeney, Joseph Radomski, Olga Radomski .

Mass will be offered for them on Thursday 3rd September at 5.30pm at St Peter and Paul's church.

Liturgies & Mass times TBA

All Sunday masses are suspended until further notice

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

Monday: 7pm Liturgy
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation
& 11am Mass
Thurs: 9am Liturgy, Mass
5.30pm
Fri: 9am Mass
Sat: 10am Mass

St Andrew's Church 29 Trebann St Newlands

Friday: 6.30pm
Divine Mercy in the Chapel

St Benedict's Church 3 Everest St Khandallah

Mon: 9am Liturgy
7pm Meditation
Tues: 9.15am Liturgy
Thurs: 9am Liturgy
Friday: 9am Mass
Saturday: 9am Mass

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

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Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/st.francis.ohariu/>

Parish Bank Account for Donations: 02-0524-0203642-00

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together