



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

Where heaven and earth come together

2nd Sunday in Lent 16th March 2025, Year C

Readings: Year C Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1; Gospel Year A Matthew 4 1-11

**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 Thursday  
8.30am—2.30pm

*Office@stfrancisochariu.nz*

## Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil  
Mass**

**Sun: 10.00am Mass**

Tue: 9.15am Mass or Liturgy  
with St Brigid's  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation  
11.00am Mass &  
Morning Tea

Thurs 5.30pm Liturgy with  
Communion

Fri: 8.30am Exposition &  
9.00am Liturgy with  
Communion  
11.30am St Benedict's  
School Mass

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

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

It's that time again to start thinking all about the Transfiguration – you know - that bit where Moses and Elijah and Jesus are together on top of a mountain and Peter (who's there with James and John) has absolutely no idea of what's going on. And most of us have no clue either.

In Matthew 5:17 Jesus says "I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets but to fulfil them" and here on the mountain He underlines that saying - here is Moses – he is the start of the Old Testament and represents the Law– here is Elijah – he is the last of the prophets and represents the Prophets and is effectively the finish of Old Testament and here is Jesus – the New testament – the fulfilment of all that has gone before – the beginning of the New Testament – and this is the pivotal point where human nature meets God.

The road that Jesus is embarking upon is in accord with the law and the prophets but His teaching is so different that it needs God's sanction to approve it.

The voice of God from heaven identifies Jesus as His Son (as that voice has done so many times before) but here it underscores the move from the Old to the New and reinforces the teachings of Jesus.

But His teachings are not yet ready for all to hear so He warns the three disciples that they have to wait until He is risen from the dead – and whilst they agree "they discussed among themselves what risen from the dead could mean"

We now know about the resurrection, and if we are unlikely to have a transfiguration in our lives we can be certain that we are listening to the word of God

**Tony de Joux.**

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased:** Bill Cooney, Gerard Koopmanscap, Pauline Leahy

**Anniversary:** Rosemary Joachim-Dias

**Prayers for the sick,** Fr Brian Wysocki, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'i ,Carmen Godinez, Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh, Lote So'oa, Madonna Aspinall, Fr Joe Savesi, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Saili Tafaese ,Moe Pio Tafaese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Tony Bordignon, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell,, .



**For the more information please visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisochariu.nz>**

### Stations of the Cross during Lent

We invite all our parishioners to take part in the Stations of the Cross, every **Friday** in our Church from **7th March at 6.30pm**. This will be followed by the **Divine Mercy prayers**.

One of our Priests will be available for Reconciliation *during* the Stations of the Cross.

### World Day of Prayer

A big **thank you** to all who participated in and contributed to a welcoming and smooth-running service for World Day of Prayer last Friday.

Around 75 people attended, including 25 pupils from St Brigid's School, and \$364 was raised for charities in the Pacific.

Next year's service will be hosted by the Johnsonville Salvation Army.

### Lenten Reflection Discussions 7-8pm at Challenge 2000

#### 1 Wanaka Street Johnsonville

This will be a prayer and reflection time focussing on the Lent Gospel Readings and how they relate to our individual and collective journeys particularly when they are impacted by local and global events.

All are welcome in this safe, prayerful, reflective space.

**Please come to be, pray, hear and share.**

For further information call Kitty 021491459 or e mail: [semanaiagafili@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:semanaiagafili@challenge2000.org.nz).

### Notices for the Newsletter/Deadlines

As our Parish Office is **closed** on Fridays, the Newsletter is now formatted & published on **Thursdays** (subject to change for Religious & Public Holidays.)

Can items for the Newsletter please be emailed to [office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:office@stfrancisohariu.nz) by **noon, Wednesday** to allow time for editing and proofreading.

Please include '**Newsletter**' & the preferred date of publication in the subject field. **Thank you!**

What's happening around the Diocese?

<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>

### Malvina Major:

An Anointing Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday **26 March at 2 00pm** in the Chapel-Reflection Room. All welcome.

### Caritas Lent Appeal 2025—Restoring Hope

The Bishops' Lent Appeal for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has begun.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal is essential to our mission, providing much of the resources necessary to continue our life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific, and beyond.

For more information, please look for the Caritas Poster and Giver Envelopes in our Church foyer or click here <https://www.caritas.org.nz/>

### Invitation to Pray

**For Vocations to the Priesthood & Consecrated Life;** you are invited to a Holy Hour which will include prayer, Scripture, singing, & times of silence and conclude with Benediction. **Tuesday 25 March 7.30pm – 8.30pm**, Sacred Heart Cathedral Thorndon. *All are welcome.*

### Joshua Men's Group

Reminder about the Joshua Men's meeting this coming **Thursday 20th March** in Connolly Hall (next to Sacred Heart Cathedral). Join us from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start followed by supper.

Speaker: Fr Alfred Tong on "The need for generosity"

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra

027-4477-280 or email: [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

### Quote from Pope Francis Message for Lent 2025

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves whether we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far.

Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance.

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

Office Hours Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm

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)

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

Parish Bank Account for Koha/Donations

**02-0524-0203642-00**

Account name: **Arch Dio of Wgtn St Francis of Assisi Parish**

