



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

Where heaven and earth come together

4th Sunday in Lent 30th March 2025, Year C

Readings: Year C Joshua 5:9-13; Corinthians 5:17-21; Gospel Year A John 9:1-41

**Parish Priest**  
Msgr Gerard Burns

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**Assistant Priest**  
Fr Alfred Tong

[Alfred@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:Alfred@stfrancisohariu.nz)

**Parish Office Hours**  
04 478 7137  
Mon to Thursday  
8.30am—2.30pm

[Office@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:Office@stfrancisohariu.nz)

## "It's only right that we rejoice...!"

We might all think "what sort of reasoning is that"? Just because someone says it's right doesn't mean that it is.

The younger son was so fixed and hungry on using a monetary 'inheritance' that he did away with every bit of it.

Once he did away with every bit of money he had, he was still unaware that his human dignity didn't depend on what he had or not. Until his Father treated him otherwise.

We find out that the eldest son also didn't understand about the concept of inheritance either. His form of justice was one very different to the Father's. He thought he should be rewarded more than others simply because of how better he had been. Maybe, around serving the church or the community or the charity he thought he had given. He became possessive of his own exclusive 'patch' of the Kingdom. But, he didn't see the transformation that had occurred in his younger brother's heart.

The real inheritance isn't the money, or the acclaim we can get from our good works. It's accepting the love and embrace of God.

Mission isn't about dividing monetary inheritances or throwing money at things or people. How well resources are spent is based on how well the blessings and generosity of God are revealed in our lives, who affirms our infinite dignity.

We can rejoice whether we have little or many monetary treasures in our own patch, or whether we hold important offices or not. God loves our honesty.

Abundant blessings, .

Fr Alfred

## 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

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

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Blight, Barbara Christopher,

**Anniversary:** Mary Jean O'Donnell,

**Prayers for the sick,** Fr Brian Wysocki, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker, Tovia Fa'I, Carmen Godinez, Anna Mika-Hunt Walsh, Lote So'oa, Madonna Aspinall, Fr Joe Saveni, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, Jocelyn Whitehouse, David Clarke, Salli 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.stfrancisohariu.nz>

# Holy Week Timetable

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu



**Palm Sunday** 13 April (Regular Mass Schedule )  
Saturday 5pm  
Sunday 10am

**Chrism Mass 16 April** At the Cathedral  
(Blessing of the Oils) 7.30pm

**Holy Thursday** 17 April Thursday 7pm

**Good Friday** 18 April  
Stations of the Cross 10am  
Ecumenical Walk (leaves from the Uniting Church ) 11am  
Liturgy & Veneration Friday 3pm  
Friday 5pm

**Holy Saturday** 19 April 7pm Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday** 20 April  
8am Early Mass  
10am Mass

Please remember our Parish recycling project.

Reduce, reuse, recycle...



## **24 HOURS FOR THE LORD @ Sacred Heart Cathedral**

A Lenten opportunity to join millions of Catholics around the world in prayer and adoration during this Jubilee Year.

From **5:30pm on Friday 28th March until the 5:30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 29th March.**

Parishes are invited to take lead for an hour or two during the 24-hour Vigil. **Our Parish will lead this from 2pm-3pm on Saturday, please join us...**

Everyone is welcome to visit the Cathedral and spend some time in adoration during this period.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

Visit <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/jubilee-2025/>

What's happening around the Diocese?

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

## **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 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.

## **Lenten Reflection**

**Monday March 31st 8pm** Challenge 2000 1 Wanaka Street Johnsonville. This session will be led by Kitty McKinley. Come along and Be, Pray, Listen and share part of your Lenten Journey

We will focus on next Sundays Gospel: What does Jesus say to us when we fail, all seems lost and others want to condemn us? BYO small stone!

## **Lenten Retreat - Open to everyone**

The KPF Mission Ministries invite you to a Lenten Retreat on **Saturday, 12 April, at St. Martin de Porres Church, Av-alon, Lower Hutt from 8:30am – 5pm** with reflective talks, Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Let's gather and journey with the Lord as we prepare our hearts for God's greatest love. Text Rey 0275712825 to reserve a seat and more details or register online <https://forms.gle/AwwBCqVF61oLn2gz8>

## **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/>

## **Quote from Pope Francis** General Audience, 11/5/16

"The elder son needs mercy too. The righteous, those who believe they are righteous, are also in need of mercy. This son represents us when we wonder whether it is worth all the trouble if we get nothing in return. Jesus reminds us that one does not stay in the house of the Father for a reward but because one has the dignity of being children who share responsibility. There is no "bargaining" with God, but rather following in the footsteps of Jesus who gave himself on the Cross without measure."

## **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**



## **Support for Lent Appeal is an ‘act of generosity’**

### ***A statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand***

Every year in this sacred time, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a six-week fundraising campaign on their behalf called **the Bishops’ Lent Appeal**.

The money raised during this time is essential to the mission of Caritas. It provides much of the funding necessary for them to continue their life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific and beyond.

This year’s appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid. France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK have also cut their overseas development aid budgets. These decisions will cause significant suffering for those facing poverty, conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw.

Every year, individuals and parishes across New Zealand demonstrate great generosity by donating to this appeal. We hope that this will continue for this Lenten season.

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2025 is **Restoring hope: Your compassion in action / Kia puawai te Tūmanako**. Caritas’ mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace and development, is of vital importance to us all. The **Bishops’ Lent Appeal** is the best way to directly fund Caritas’ work – supporting vulnerable communities around the world.

For the Catholic community, Caritas is how we help our brothers and sisters in need, upholding their human dignity through local partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Over the last few years there has been a drop in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund the programmes that serve those most in need. We ask that during this time of preparation, prayer and almsgiving, you make a special donation to the **Bishops’ Lent Appeal 2025** at [caritas.org.nz/lent](https://caritas.org.nz/lent) or by using the envelopes provided at Mass.

This act of almsgiving is an act of generosity. It will mean so much to the people Caritas serves across our region.

In Christ,

- ✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland
- ✠ Richard Laurensen, Bishop of Hamilton
- ✠ John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North
- ✠ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington
- ✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin