



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

Where heaven and earth come together

1st Sunday in Lent 9th March 2025, Year C

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13; Gospel Year A Matthew 4 1-11

## Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns

[g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz)

## 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)

## 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

## Reflection

Life can be better

As I ponder on the times of change in this world, and the ability of the world to adapt to the various changes that are happening, it is tempting to think that certain answers that are offered by various parties will be the ultimate solution to all of the world's crises points.

And yet, decisions without reverence to God's continuous Holy Spirit sustaining our lives, and knowing our place in Creation, will always be piecemeal and limited.

In our humanness, we may be hungry for quick solutions to quell our immediate appetite, especially in a disparate and needy climate, as Jesus experienced in the desert.

When self-interests of preservation are at stake, it is not hard to find comfort in unrealistic or unhuman demands of ourselves or others. To create an idol for worship out of a process that turn stones into bread, to control others by garnering fame and fortune for ourselves, but also, feeling the devilish pain and rejection when we don't 'succeed' at this process.

Jesus demonstrates that life doesn't get better when idolatrous processes are followed. These only enslave us to be less of ourselves.

*"Trust in the slow work of God..."*

*Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete" -*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

Abundant blessings,

**Fr Alfred.**

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Paul O'Connor AA

**Anniversary:** Gae'e Family Anniversaries,

**Prayers for the sick,** Fr Frank Whitaker Tovia 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.stfrancisohariu.nz>

## World Day of Prayer Service TOMORROW

This is being held on **Friday 7 March at 10:30 am at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu.**

It is 5 years since we have hosted this special liturgical service at our church where we welcome fellow Christians from 3 other denominations in Johnsonville.

This year's service is prepared by women from the Cook Islands with the theme,

**"I made you wonderfully".**

The service will be followed by morning tea.

## Caritas Lent Appeal 2025—Restoring Hope

The Bishops' Lent Appeal for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand begins next week.

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.

We are grateful for the generous support your Parish gave to Caritas last year. With continued support this year, we can offer hope to communities facing hardship.

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

What's happening around the Diocese?  
<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>

## Children's Day 2025



Te Rā o ngā Tamariki last Sunday.



A big thank you to all who joined in to Celebrate our children and their presence in our community.

Thanks especially to Felicity and her music group, Felise and his team for the blow up castles and games, Jacob and Zena for the **HOURS** of face painting, and the Youth Min Team for the food, fun and time.

## 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 email: [semanaiacagafili@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:semanaiacagafili@challenge2000.org.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 followed by the **Divine Mercy prayers**.

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

## 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 the office [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!*

## Quote from Pope Francis [Angelus](#), 6 March 2022

May this time of Lent also be a time of the desert for us. Let us take time for silence and prayer — just a little, it will do us good — in these spaces let us stop and look at what is stirring in our hearts, our inner truth, what we know cannot be justified. Let us find inner clarity, placing ourselves before the Word of God in prayer

**Nuptials**: Our Prayers and congratulations for Parishioners, Caroline and William, who are preparing for their wedding next weekend.



*Arohanui!*

## **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**

