



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

Where heaven and earth come together

**Fourth Sunday of Lent - 15 March 2026, Year A**  
**Readings: Samuel 16:1.6-7,10-13 ; Ephesians 5:8-14 ; John 9:1-41**

## Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns  
g.burns@cadw.nz

## Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong  
alfred@stfrancisoHariu.nz

## Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137  
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm  
office@stfrancisoHariu.nz

## Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**

**Sun: 10am Mass**

### Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 9.15 am Mass with St  
Brigid's School (Tui)  
5.00pm Reconciliation  
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation  
11.00am Mass (with  
morning tea)

**Reconciliation** : Every Friday  
during Lent at 6.30-7.30 pm or  
by arrangement with office 04  
478 7137

## Important Dates

**25 March 2026**

Malvina Major Anointing Mass  
at 2.00 pm

**29 March 2026**

Passion Sunday

**1 April 2026**

Chrim Mass at Sacred Heart  
Cathedral 7.30 pm



## Reflection

**To "See what I can't see".**

I'm a scientist. I'm also a pretty self-conscious person learning new things. I hate getting things wrong! In the seminary, I could remember the first day of philosophy class and saying to the

philosophy lecturer "Why do I have to learn about this ancient fella Aristotle? Why am I learning about a guy who thinks the elements are earth, fire, wind and water, who has no idea whatsoever about the Periodic Table or Atomic Theory?" Coupled with a high expectation to achieve all my life, I'm often tempted to give up when I can't understand something new. It has meant at times that I have found it difficult to ask for help. I would rather be proud of all of the things that I can do, sticking to things I'm good at or 'my world', rather than reorganise my brain. I want to be able to show others that I can see, and yet in reality, I am still in the dark about so many things.

If this sounds like you, you're not alone. Apologies in advance if that is not what you expect of an assistant parish priest! The Pharisees were talented in all matters of the law. Many were good people who learnt in a particular way and imposed 'their world' of learning onto others, in the hope that their thought system would benefit the lives of others. So, when they encountered something new and unexpected, they couldn't face the pride in themselves not to know or be challenged. There was 'disagreement' among the Pharisees when they first encountered this blind man. They must be like me - "I know my science, why do I have to learn something new?" And this blind man with little or no education schooling us with Ph.Ds. - that's just beyond the pale.

We all see, but only to varying degrees. God shows us that we only grow humbly, or come to who we are, when we "know what we don't know" or see what we can't see.

**Fr. Alfred Tong**

## Remembering the Holy Souls

**Recently Deceased** : Martin Tabor , Zosimo Marinay, Jr. (father of Maribel Clough).

**Anniversary**: Colleen Mary Kelly

**Prayers for the sick**: Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'l, Carmen Godinez, Lote So'oa, Fr Joe Savesi, Betty Stewart, Fr David Orange, David Clarke, Saili Tafaese ,Moe Pio Tafaese, Gerard McDonagh, Jessie Hensen, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell, Delia Flores Fabreag



For the latest information visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisoHariu.nz>



**HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**  
**OHARIU PARISH**



**Palm Sunday**

Saturday, 28 March : Vigil Mass at 5.00 PM  
 Sunday, 29 March : Mass at 10.00 AM

**Chrism Mass , Wednesday 1 April 2026**

Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7.00 PM

**Holy Thursday, 2 April 2026**

Mass at 7.00 PM

**Good Friday , 3 April 2026**

Liturgy and Veneration : 3.00 PM

**Holy Saturday , 4 April 2026**

Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00 PM

**Easter Sunday , 5 April 2026**

Mass at 10.00 AM



**Holy Week Reflection:** A guided day of prayer and reflection to enter the spirit of Holy Week. Saturday, **28 March, 9.00am–3.15pm at Pā Maria, 78 Hobson St, Thorndon**, Wellington. Presenters: **Neil Vaney SM, Chris Skinner SM, and Judith Moroney RSM**. Please bring your own lunch; tea and coffee provided. Entry by koha. Limited to 20 people – RSVP by 24 March to [pamariabookings@gmail.com](mailto:pamariabookings@gmail.com)

**Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship: Thursday, 19 March 2026** – cuppa 7.00pm, meeting 7.30pm, Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, Wellington. Speaker: Msgr. Gerard Burns – "The relevance of faith in 2026." Info: David 027 4477 280 or [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com).

**Part-Time Cleaning Jobs Opportunities:**

Ayuora Property Services (Wellington) has flexible part-time cleaner roles available. Parishioners aged 23–30 are welcome to apply. Contact Thilini Fernando on 021 481 081 or email [marketing@ayuora.com](mailto:marketing@ayuora.com)

**Holy Hour – Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.** Join us at SFOA on **Wednesdays, March 18, and 25 at 7pm** for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Pray with our Catechumens as they grow in faith. Reconciliation available upon request.

**Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now!**

Enrolments are open for St Francis of Assisi Ōhāriu Parish's 2026 Sacramental Programme. Full details are on the website. **Enrolments close 1 July 2026**. Download the application form online from our website [here](https://www.stfrancisohariu.nz) or email: [sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz)



**HOLY HOUR for vocations** to the priesthood and religious life. JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! **7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on Tuesday, 24th March and every 4th Tuesday of the month.**

**Recollection Day – Saturday, 21 March 2026:**

All are warmly invited to a **Recollection Day after the 9.00am Mass at SS Peter & Paul Church, Lower Hutt**. The theme is "We Are People of Hope" with speaker Fr Bill Burt SVD. The programme includes two reflection talks (10.00am and 11.30am), morning tea (provided), concluding prayer, and a shared lunch (please bring a plate). Come and take time to pause, pray, and reflect during this Lenten season. All are welcome!

**Youth Minister Network Evening** – Come join us on **19th March at 6.30pm** at the Archdiocesan office (204 Thorndon Quay) to learn more about youth ministry and how to serve the young people in our communities.



**Vocations Weekend: HAS ANYONE EVER SAID YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD PRIEST?** Thinking about priesthood? Join a Vocations Weekend for young men, 27–29 March 2026 with Fr Alan Roberts. To register contact Lucienne at: [l.hensel@cadw.nz](mailto:l.hensel@cadw.nz)

**Quote from Pope Leo :**

*'We lift up our humble prayer to the Lord, so that the thunderous sound of bombs may cease, weapons may fall silent, and a space for dialogue may open up in which the voice of the people can be heard. I entrust this intention to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, that she may intercede for those who suffer because of war and lead hearts along the paths of reconciliation and hope.'*

*Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, 8 March 2026*

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

**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm

**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)

Account name: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Parish Bank Account for Planned Giving/Koha: **02-0524-0203642-00**

