



# St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: [www.stfrancisohariu.nz](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz)

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

**3rd Week of Advent 15 December 2024, Year C**

**Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-18 Philippians 4:4-7, 8-11 Luke 3: 10-18**

Joy is the theme of the third Sunday of Advent. This is reflected in this Sunday being called *Guadete* (Rejoice or joy) Sunday.

In the first reading from Zephaniah the prophet says "Sing - shout - be glad with all your heart."

Isaiah in his Psalm cries out "Shout aloud and sing for joy - for great is the Holy One among you."

Paul in his letter to the Philippians urges the people, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say it - rejoice".

John in His Gospel portrays John the Baptist crying out to the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. He exhorted them to live a kind and good life and to have their hearts ready to welcome the Christ.

Although there is much sadness and suffering in our world that at times can overwhelm us, we are called to harbour joy in our hearts; a joy that can rise up within us as we anticipate the wonder, the love and hope of Christmas.

But we also have joy because as John writes in Chapter 3 of his Gospel, "God so loved the world that He sent His own beloved Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life".

We rejoice in the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child but we also rejoice that through the life and death of Jesus our sins have been forgiven and we have received the wondrous gift of eternal life.

*We are blessed and our hearts sing with thankfulness and joy.*

May you have a joyous Christmas blessed by the indwelling of Jesus within you.

Ewen Laurenson

## Parish Information

### FAREWELLING JOE

Our Lay Pastoral Leader, Joe Green will be finishing his contract with our Parish on Friday 13th December. Joe has made a huge contribution to the parish in the last three years, and we will be sorry to see him go.



We wish Joe all the best in this next season of his life.

We will have the opportunity to thank and farewell Joe over **this** weekend of **14th and 15th December** - at both the Saturday Vigil and the Sunday Mass. On Sunday, Mass will be followed by a cup of tea and shared food. Please bring a plate to share.

You are all very welcome to attend.

### Children's liturgy

This Sunday [15th December] is the last children's liturgy session for 2024. Many thanks to all those who have looked after the children during the year. To all the children and their families we wish them all a blessed Christmas. We look forward to seeing you again in 2025.

### St Brigid's School Term 4 Masses and Liturgies

End of Year School Mass - 17 December 11am



St Brigid's

### Time Table for Christmas

21st December Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

22nd December Sunday Mass 10 am

24th December Carols 5.00pm

Mass 5.30pm

Carols 8.00pm

Mass 8.30pm

25th December Mass 10.00am

28th December Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

29th December Sunday Mass 10 am

1st January **2025** New years Mass 9.00am



## Parish & Other Information

### IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

#### Are you a young adult searching for the meaning of life?

We have an invitation for you!

Alpha is coming to our parish - a place to connect with others as you explore the big questions in life. Join us and bring your mates along for a shared meal, an episode on a topic of faith, a chance to ask questions and share ideas. All are welcome to attend.

Join us for a **PROMO NIGHT** on **Tuesday 11 February, 7:00pm** in our church hall.

To register, email [alpha@sfrancisohariu.nz](mailto:alpha@sfrancisohariu.nz).

We look forward to seeing you there.



### Malvina Major Christmas Day:

**Christmas Day Mass** will be celebrated by Fr Michael Smith SJ in the Chapel Reflection Room at 10.30 a.m.



### Christmas Giving Appeal

St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 work in partnership providing a foodbank for the needy.



Between now and mid-December, please consider increased donations of non-perishable food items to the foodbank. Food will be distributed by this partnership.

You might prefer to donate "cash" - there are two ways that you can do this - in an envelope clearly labelled "helping out at Christmas appeal", or, supermarket gift vouchers. Just pop these into the collection plate. The cash will be turned into supermarket vouchers.

We are also collecting new Toys to be distributed to families in need this Christmas.



## Parish & Other Information

### Christmas Hampers

With generous help from parishioners including those at Malvina Major, and helped by a sizeable injection of cash from The Trusts Community Foundation, Saint Vincent de Paul filled Christmas hampers for people who might otherwise have missed out.

62 hampers were filled for 54 families consisting of 231 people. St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 shared delivery of hampers. We added fruit and vegetables to hampers in addition to the usual sweet treats.



Without help from parishioners this could not have happened.



**Thank you.**

### Johnsonville Op Shop

A big thank you to all our volunteers who have worked in the Johnsonville Op Shop this year. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. From the Op Shop Committee.

### Advent event THIS WEEKEND

*As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman.*



*We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.*

#### **Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter, *Admirabile Signum*, 2019**

St Francis created the first nativity scene at Greccio, Italy, in 1223. It was a way of bringing the message of Christmas to the people in a way that 'invites us to feel and touch the poverty that God's Son took upon himself in the Incarnation.' (Pope Francis). On **Saturday 14 December**, you are invited to join the advent journey after 5 pm Mass. We will start with a pot-luck dinner (at around 6.30 pm) and then a simple celebration with carols and reflections.

Please bring some cash for donations/fundraising towards a fundraiser for families in New Caledonia who continued to be impacted by the unrest.

Venue – St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, 37 Dr Taylor Terrace, Johnsonville.

**Everyone is welcome – Nau mai Haere mai!**

## Other Information

### Holiday Programmes

The Challenge Youth Ministry team is offering a number of programmes and projects for children and young people over the summer holidays. Please contact Ana, the Parish Office or Naia if you'd like to get involved.

### **Programmes for children!**

- December 20th 10am - 4pm: Christmas plays, music decorations, football, cricket and games.
  - December 23rd 10am - 4pm Christmas crafts, decorations, cards, outdoor games, and activities
- Swimming lessons and pool fun: time to be arranged - watch the noticeboard

### **Programmes for young people: Want to help others?**

You can volunteer by:

- Present wrapping in the Johnsonville mall
- Helping with your holiday programmes
- Packing Christmas hampers
- Cleaning windows, section clearing
- Watch the Noticeboard for pool activities, Pencarrow bike ride or Tramping opportunities

**Also remember if you would like to receive a Christmas Hamper then let the office or Challenge 2000 know: 044776827 or**

**To register for the programmes or get for more information please contact:**

[anbaice@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:anbaice@challenge2000.org.nz) or [semanaiagafili@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:semanaiagafili@challenge2000.org.nz)  
or [info@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:info@challenge2000.org.nz)

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **Parish Synodal Gathering - SUNDAY 23rd February 2025**

The parish gathering originally planned for the 10th November will now be held on **Sunday 23rd February**, from 1:30pm to 4pm. Please save this date and join us for an afternoon of connecting, listening and reflecting together as we head into the new year.

The meeting will include Afternoon Tea, and childcare will be provided.

## Other Events/Notices

### What is happening around our Diocese ?

Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events:..

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

### *Christmas*

*A time to remember*

**Friday 13th December** at 6.30pm



When you have lost someone dear to you, anniversaries and the times you were happiest are often the times you are at your saddest.

Come and join us at our service of remembrance and gather strength from others.

This Christmas, let us support one another.  
Everyone is welcome

*(Guardian Funerals)*

### Archbishop's Appeal: Support Our Seminarians

Throughout December, Archbishop Paul invites you to contribute to the Archbishop's Appeal, which supports the formation of our Archdiocesan seminarians. Your generous donations will help cover the costs of their education at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland, as well as their travel to and from the Archdiocese and ongoing pastoral care. Please consider making a gift to help nurture and support those preparing for a life of service to the Church. Donations can be made to 02-0536-0003306-13; Reference: your name; Code: AB Appeal

### Compassion News

#### **Christmas Mass**

Celebrate the joy of Christmas with us! Join our traditional Christmas Mass on 25 December at 9:00 am in the Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington 602

-All welcome



## Other Events/Notices

### Jubilee Year 2025

In the year 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a Holy Year, since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. Since then, Jubilee Years have been celebrated first every hundred years, then every fifty and from the year 1470, every twenty-five years.

To find out more about the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, visit <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/jubilee-2025/> to find out more about Jubilee Year celebrations in Wellington in 2025.



### Jubilee Year of Hope

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Doors at St Peter's Basilica in Rome, thus inaugurating the start of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

In the Archdiocese of Wellington, the Jubilee Year will be inaugurated on Sunday **26<sup>th</sup> January** at the 10am Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

All are welcome to attend.

Parishes will have their own celebration of the opening of the Jubilee Year on the same day.

### Year of Jubilee : Ngā Tapuwāe Jubilee Hikoi 2025

Join in and experience the footsteps of Bishop Pompalier, Kupe, and the Poynton's, with other pilgrims, together sharing our Catholic and Maori heritage. This is a guided pilgrimage. Information is available at [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/lifeinfaith/nga\\_tapuwae-2025](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/lifeinfaith/nga_tapuwae-2025) or contact Deacon Steve Fraser [stephenf@cda.org.nz](mailto:stephenf@cda.org.nz)



Registrations are now open. Dates are 10th to 12th January 2025. Own transport required.

### Quote from Pope Francis

*'What then shall we do?'*... The Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left to chance. It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us — let us not forget this — *has a mission to accomplish*. Let us ask ourselves as well: what would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society?

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 12 December 2021

## MASS INTENTIONS

We ask for your prayers - Masses have been offered for:



**Recently Deceased:** Sr Trish Hanaray csb (formally Sr Lucille )

**Anniversaries:** Juan Mendoza, Mark Telfar

**Prayers for the Sick:** Pat Keane, 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 Frank Maguire, Fr Kevin Purcell, Fr Peter O'Connell, .

## MASS & LITURGY TIMES Saturday 14th December - Friday 20th December

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10.00am Mass

Tues: 5.30pm No Evening Mass due to St Benedict's school event

Wed: 11.00am Mass- followed (no morning tea until 12 Feb 2025)

Thurs: 9am Liturgy

Fri: 8.30am Exposition 9.00am Liturgy



Please note, Reconciliation will be held every Wednesday at 10.30am before the 11am Mass. Reconciliation can be made by appointment through the Parish Office.

### Our Parish Vision

We are missionary disciples of Christ,  
in a community of communities,  
being transformed in our lives,  
and transforming others and our world.

### **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**