



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

4th Week of Advent 22 December 2024, Year C
Readings: Micah 5: 1-4 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-44

Dear parishioners

Francis Vernon Douglas. A Columban priest born (1910) and raised in Johnsonville who was killed in the Philippines in 1943. I have recently been reading a book on his life (With No Regrets, by Patricia Brooks) because his picture is in the church near the altar.



Beyond the awful story of his death at the hands of the Japanese army, I have been intrigued by the parts that tell of life in Johnsonville parish in the 1910s and '20s. Johnsonville was a relatively small village. Newlands, Churton Park were all farms, Ngaio and Khandallah just developing areas. The parish was small, close knit and from a relatively homogenous ethnic background.

The contrast with today is striking. However, one thing hasn't changed – parishioner's fascination with the story of the Word of God made flesh and the desire to experience the life he brings. I see that in parents bringing their children to inspect the crib, the joy of the carol singing at various celebrations in the church, the generosity of people contributing to the hampers and food appeals at this time. It's quite humbling.

So thank you for your example to me this year. The example of faith and generosity. It's been a demanding year for me, but not as demanding as for many of you and for many others in our land. Thank you for your contributions to the life of this energetic and variegated parish. I think we are still finding ourselves as a community following the changes of the last few years. But faith, hope, prayer and willingness to serve abound.

A blessed and happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Fr Gerard Burns.

Parish Information

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



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.

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@stfrancisohariu.nz.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Parish Information

Mass & Liturgies During the Summer

Please note - there will be **NO usual** weekday liturgies between 20th December 2024 and the end of January 2025.

On New Year's Day we will celebrate Mass at 9am and following that the Wednesday Masses for the Month of January will all be at **9am**

Weekday Masses and Liturgies will recommence week of Sunday, 2nd February 2024.

Please note: for the month of January regular weekend Masses will continue:

Saturday, 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, 10.00am Mass

Rosters

There will be no prepared rosters from 30th December 2024 until the end of January 2025 for weekend Masses.

If you are at any of the masses over those weeks, please volunteer.

Monsignor Gerard Burns 40th Jubilee of Ordination

Our Parish Priest, Monsignor Gerard Burns, will be celebrating 40 years of Priesthood on Sunday, 19 January 2025.

Our parish will be celebrating this significant event with him on Sunday, 26 January, 2025, following our 10 am Mass and would like the parish to celebrate this with him.

Everyone is warmly invited to join us.

Please bring along a plate of finger food to share. More details closer to the date.

40 Years

Christmas Collection

Christmas Day is the annual Christmas collection. Those who make donations to planned giving by envelope will have a special brown envelope for this collection.

If you make donations to planning giving by automatic payment and want to donate for this collection, you can do so by making a one off payment from your account to the Parish bank account 02-0524-0203642-00. Please make sure the you use 'Christmas' in the reference Field.

Many thanks for all the contributions you make

Parish & Other Information



Philippines
had it for 20 years

A selection of the beautiful cribs on display in our Church

Other Information

DISPLAY CREATES TRAFFIC JAM

At last Saturday's vigil mass, you might have heard about the traffic jam in the corridor as people entered the church stopping to have a look at the nativities on display from places as far away as Paraguay and Russia.

A few of us hearing about Pope Francis' visit to the location of the first nativity created by St Francis of Assisi in the town of Greccio in 1223 and as this is St Francis' parish Ohariu, we thought it would be a nice way of bringing our community together by displaying their family cribs. It is also a way of reminding us that Jesus became one of us!

Judging by the interest shown, hopefully we can have it again next year and invite the wider parish community to display their cribs as well.

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 **or** semanaiaagafili@challenge2000.org.nz
or info@challenge2000.org.nz

Other Events/Notices

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.**

Columban Calendars

Now available from the Parish Office Mon—Thursday 8.30am to 2.30pm.

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. 2025 marks the 103rd edition -These Calendars make beautiful Christmas gifts.



The Calendars are **\$15.00** (please try to bring the correct change.)

Shine Recorded Masses

For anyone who participated in the Masses that were filmed for the Sundays in December, for Shine TV. You can watch them on the relevant Sunday at 2pm on Shine TV, OR go to the Auckland Diocese website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/sunday-mass/> and they are available from the Saturday, from 5.30pm onwards.

What is happening around our Diocese ?

Stay up to date with Archdiocesan events...
<https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/events/>

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

ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON



18th December 2024

To the Parishioners in the Archdiocese

Dear brothers and sisters

This year has flown by, and you have all been in my prayers, particularly as we approach the birth of the Christ-child in just over a week's time. I hope and pray that your Advent has been graced; and that you have had an opportunity among all the busyness of Christmas preparations to ready your hearts to be filled with the wonder and hope that the birth of Jesus gives to each one of us.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your witness to faith and for the life of our church communities this last 12 months. Thriving parishes and schools are signs of God in our midst, and as I have journeyed around the Archdiocese throughout 2024 I have been filled with gratitude for the ministry I have seen. I want to thank you also for your care of our priests and the support you give to them in their ministry.

I hope that during this Christmas season you may have an opportunity to rest and revitalise your spirits. Thank you to those of you who work during this time so that others may rest, it is very much appreciated.

I look forward to celebrating the Jubilee year of Hope with you in 2025 as we find ways to thank God for all we have and to grow in the virtue of hope.

May the joy and peace of this Christmas season be with and your families.

Yours in Christ

+Paul Martin SM

Archbishop of Wellington

Quote from Pope Francis

'After receiving the annunciation of the angel, Mary does not stay at home, thinking over what has happened and considering the problems and pitfalls, which were certainly not lacking, with the culture of that age... She did not understand.... On the contrary, she first thinks of someone in need; instead of being absorbed in her own problems, she thinks about someone in need, she thinks about Elizabeth, her relative, who was advanced in years and with child, something strange and miraculous. Mary sets out with generosity, without letting herself be daunted by the discomforts of the journey, responding to an inner impulse that called her to be close and to help.'

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 19 December 2021.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Recently Deceased: Miles Rotich, Luke Crawford, Marlene Rosa



Anniversaries: Rico Decolongon, Tom O'Donnell, Edith Parish, Christina Rump, Leonardo Javier.

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 21st December - Friday 27th December

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun: 10.00am Mass
Tues: 5.00pm Carols 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass
8.00pm Carols 8.30pm Christmas Eve Mass
Wed: 10.00am Christmas Day Mass
Thurs: No weekday Liturgy
Fri: No weekday Liturgy



Please note, Reconciliation over the summer holiday period is by request around Mass times. Thank you..

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, 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

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

Parish Bank Account for Koha/Donations

02-0524-0203642-00