



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

2nd Week of Advent 8 December 2024, Year C

Readings: Baruch 5: 1-9 Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11 Luke 1: 1-6

The theme for the second Sunday of Advent is Faith.

Faith is an old French word meaning belief, trust and confidence.

Faith is being confident in what we hope for.

Trust is at the heart of faith. We believe in what, as yet, we cannot see.

In Luke's gospel we are invited to prepare by simplifying our lives and in this way to make a pathway for the coming of Christ Jesus into our hearts and into our world this Christmas. In the busyness of the end of the year which is also the season of Advent we are invited to prioritise our lives by asking ourselves 'what really matters in the scheme of things?'

We are reminded to clear the clutter of activities and habits that fills up our lives and keeps us from clearing a pathway for Christ's coming.

The prophet Baruch (first reading) tells us to put on the garments of beauty and integrity that shine through with trustworthiness and wholeness so we can see through the brokenness and distress in our lives. Baruch reminds us that all is not lost.

With David's psalm (125) we sing with joy as we reflect on the reality of what Christ's coming can mean for our lives.

Paul (second reading) prays for us all that our love for one another may increase and as a result we become more and more ready to welcome Christ this Christmas.

In what ways can I strengthen my faith this Advent?

What do I need to let go of so that I can truly enjoy the coming of Christ Jesus this Christmas?

Judy McCormack

In what ways can I strengthen my faith this Advent?

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 the 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.

St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Anointing Mass

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Parish Anointing Mass last week. A special thank you to those people who organised, and helped out at the mass and the morning tea afterwards. It is much appreciated.

St Brigid's School Term 4 Masses and Liturgies

End of Year School Mass - 17 December 11am



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

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.)

Also available to purchase is the book

Saints Peter and Paul's Johnsonville

—One Hundred years

These books originally retailed at \$20.00 but are now available on a one time special offer of **\$10.00**.

Malvina Major Anointing Mass:

Residents are invited to the last Anointing Mass for 2024 in the **Chapel Reflection Room** on **Tuesday 10 December** at 10 30 a m.

*Please note this is a week earlier than the date previously advertised and there has been a change of location



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.



Your gift from the heart - he tuku aroha could make a difference to families.

St Benedict's and St Brigid's year 8 Retreat Day

On Tuesday, the Year 8 students of St Benedict's and St Brigid's Schools had their end of year retreat at St Francis of Assisi Ōhāriu. The focus of the retreat was on the transition and change for the students as they moved onto College. As the students were formed into groups representing the colleges they will attend next year, it was a time not only to renew companionship and friendships but also make new ones they will journey to college with next year.

Activities involved finding and learning about someone we didn't know before in "The Human Treasure Hunt", and a game in their groups called "Human Parts", where groups formed themselves into a an aeroplane or machine, and imagined themselves being a part of the whole. Students participated in an interactive liturgy where scripture readings (from St Paul to the Ephesians, from Jeremiah and from Ecclesiastes) were prayed with, and they reflected upon how change and transition in a new stage of life can be supported by God's continued strength and empowerment for their lives. Students were all presented with a Tau Cross lapel to mark their special belonging as a part of the Body of Christ, anointed and sent to make a difference to their chosen colleges in the year to come.

A special thanks goes to Rebecca Blackwood (St Benedict's) and Tania Fransen (St Brigid's) as well as Joe Green for coordinating the framework of the retreat and for Janet Valentine, Becky Essery and Jacqui Miranda for being a real support with the practicalities of the day.

Fr Alfred



Other Information

Advent event

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!

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.

Marriage Preparation

Couples needing marriage papers to be sent for weddings taking place overseas in the coming months please email (below) before 12 December for sending before the holiday period begins. Registrations are now open for the March course of Love is a Decision, the Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Course. This will be the first course of 2025. Visit www.wn.catholic.org.nz or email marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz.

Spanish Mass

There will be a Spanish Mass celebrated at St Joseph's Church in Mt Victoria at 6pm **Saturday 7th December** followed by Dia de Las Veritas celebration (Day of the Little Candles) at 7pm.

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)

National March for Life. THIS WEEKEND

You're invited to "love them both" by attending the annual National March for Life in Wellington on **Sat Dec 7th 2024**.

Join Kiwis from all over NZ in a family-friendly celebration of life that also peacefully protests the practice and legality of abortion.

Gather at Parliament Grounds from 1pm for family-friendly entertainment, sausage sizzle, and stalls.

The march begins at 2pm, returning to Parliament for speeches. Event ends at 4pm. Learn more about this important event at a critical moment in NZ's

history: <http://>

www.marchforlife.nz

MARCH FOR LIFE
NEW ZEALAND

Archbishop's Appeal: Support Our Seminarists

Throughout December, Archbishop Paul invites you to contribute to the Archbishop's Appeal, which supports the formation of our Archdiocesan seminarists. 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

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 **26th 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 Tapuwae 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 or contact Deacon Steve Fraser stephenf@cda.org.nz



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

Quote from Pope Francis

'The witness of John the Baptist helps us to go forward in our witness of life. The purity of his proclamation, his courage in proclaiming the truth were able to reawaken the expectation and hope in the Messiah that had long been dormant... Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day.'

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 9 December 2018

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Mary Cameron, Carmel Cameron

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 7th December - Friday 13th December

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10.00am Mass

Tues: 5.30pm Evening Mass

Wed: 11.00am Mass- followed by Morning Tea

Thurs: 9am Liturgy

Fri: No exposition or liturgy, 11.30am St Benedict's School End of year Mass



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, 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