



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

The Presentation of the Lord Sunday 16th February 2025, Year C
Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12 16-20; Luke 6:20-26

Parish Priest
Msgr Gerard Burns

g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz

Assistant Priest
Fr Alfred Tong

Alfred@stfrancisochariu.nz

Parish Office Hours
04 478 7137
Mon to Thursday
8.30am—2.30pm

Office@stfrancisochariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

**Sat: 5.00pm Vigil
Mass**

Sun: 10.00am Mass

Mon:

Tue: Liturgy with St
Brigid's
5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 Reconciliation
11.00am Mass followed
by 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

This weekend's gospel reading could be described as the 'Sermon on the plain'. It's Luke's description of the Beatitudes. Luke presents guidelines for the path towards holiness, sanctification and indeed sainthood.

Thomas Merton, an American Trappist monk writing in "New Seeds of Contemplation", 'For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore, the problem of sanctity is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and of discovering my true self'.

That bundle of psychic energy which is focused on securing our survival, place and meaning in the world is our egoic identity and is not bad. In fact, it's necessary for our becoming selves at all and for much of our functioning in the world.

The problem is that it tends towards ego-centricity. It imagines that we, I, am the centre of things. So much so that we don't even notice most of our individual self-protecting compulsions to dominate, organise and control the world on our own terms. When any of us live without awareness of these compulsions, we're unable to see other people and things clearly. We dwell in a kind of illusion, a falsity, and our way of being in the world tends to be threatened, driven and at worst destructive.

The journey to spiritual maturity involves recognizing these patterns and learning to own the particular ways we are inclined to protect, justify and aggrandise ourselves. The more we practice this, the more our egoic self finds its rightful place. And the more this happens, the more we begin to discover who we are apart from this. This, for Merton, is my 'true' God. Merton said: 'If I find God, I will find myself and if I find my true-self, I will find God'.

Peter Mulqueen

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently deceased: Mary McDermott

Anniversary: Jose Espejo, Lourdes Espejo, Amparo, Pauline Aspinall

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.stfrancisochariu.nz>

Parish Synodal Gathering Sunday 23rd February

Sunday 23rd February 1.30-4pm: Time to meet, listen and talk! St Francis of Assisi parish has many active groups and we have been together on one site for 2 years now. We are a very multi-ethnic community and it has been some time since we had a general parish hui. As we look to a hope-filled, mission-shaped and courageous future, the parish pastoral council invites all to a Parish Synodal Gathering in our church building. Part of this will be to listen to each other through the conversation-in-the-spirit model used in recent synod processes. Afternoon tea and childcare will be provided.

Children's Liturgy

Our mission is to make Jesus real to the children. During our children's liturgy sessions we promote a safe learning and supervised environment. We have a committed group of leaders. The sessions are designed for primary aged children. Children under 5 are welcome accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Taking place during the Sunday mass we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, pray and do activities that highlight the gospel of the day. We would welcome and appreciate new leaders and assistants. For adult leaders police vetting is required. As assistants we would love to have senior primary and secondary school students. Contact Pat Collier Ph 02102989504 or tchpat.collier@gmail.com

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 all items for the Newsletter please be sent to the office email office@stfrancisohariu.nz by noon Wednesday to allow time for editing and proofreading.
Many thanks, Helen

Joshua Wellington extends an open invitation to everyone to a MASS followed by a light supper on **Thursday 20th February** at **7:30pm** in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street. Celebrant: Fr Peter Ewart sm, Joshua chaplain, contact David Monastra 027 4477280 joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Alpha

You are invited to **ALPHA**

Starting **Tuesday 18 February 7pm** and the following Tuesdays, in our Church Hall

Register: alpha@stfrancisohariu.nz

Ask about life, faith and God, begin the adventure

Malvina Major Anointing Masses

The First Anointing Mass of 2025 at Malvina Major will be on **Wednesday 26th February** at **2pm** in the Chapel/Reflection room, followed by afternoon tea.

Fundraising for missionary work in Pakistan, Tanzania, and Sudan

We invite you to join us at the annual Mission Fair of the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver on Saturday, **22nd February, 10am– 1p.m.** in Convent grounds, 1 Mersey Street, Island Bay to raise funds for missionary work in Pakistan, Tanzania, and Sudan. Saleable goods for the fair and donations are greatly appreciated (toys, cakes, jams, costume jewellery, etc. except electronic goods).

Contact Sister Reena John or Sister Elcy for queries (04) 383 8401 Email: peterclaver@xtra.co.nz

What is happening around our Diocese ?

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

Quote from Pope Francis, Angelus, 13 Feb 2022
'Jesus' disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on.

These are gifts of life. They are content to share even the goods they possess, because they live according to the logic of God.

This poverty is also an awareness of having to learn every day. Because they have this attitude, Jesus' disciples are humble, open people, far from prejudice and inflexibility.'

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

Account name: **Arch Dio of Wgtn St Francis of Assisi Parish**

