



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 22 March 2026, Year A
Readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

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 (Kākā)
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

The psalm today sings of the hope we have in the Lord who hears our cry as we put our trust in His unfailing love and forgiveness. The merciful love of the Lord is reflected in all of this Sunday's readings.

The Scripture from Ezekiel comes at the end of the Prophet's vision of the Valley of the Dry Bones representing the enslaved people of Israel. The Lord is giving Israel hope of restoring them to well being. He promises His people His Spirit and that through His Spirit he will restore them to their own land, as well as restore and renew them as a people.

St Paul writing to the Romans makes a similar point. When we invite Jesus to live in us our spirits become alive in Him as we seek to do His will in our lives. We too are forgiven, restored and renewed by the Spirit of the Living God.

The story of Lazarus being raised from death records Martha going out to meet Jesus as he arrives to be with the family. As he hears Martha's grief Jesus makes a statement of great hope. "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." This is now our deeply held belief.

Mary now enters the story. Mary's grief touched Jesus. "He wept." He entered deeply into the suffering of the family. It was then Jesus raised Lazarus and restored him to his family. In raising Lazarus Jesus showed that He was full of love and mercy. Further, and most importantly, that He was the source of life, and indeed of eternal life, if we, like Martha and Mary, believe in Him.

"Lord Jesus may we never cease to believe in you, the source of eternal life. Amen."

Ewen Laursen.

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Encarnacion Evangelista Rivera, Amando Rivera , Estrella Corado , Claro Corado

Prayers for the sick: Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, 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

Chrim Mass , Wednesday 1 April 2026

Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7.30 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



Malvina Major : Anointing Mass on Wednesday, 25 March 2026 at 2.00 pm followed by Afternoon Tea and the parish consultation workshop. All welcome.

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

As Holy Week approaches, St Francis of Assisi Ōhāriu Parish is partnering with Challenge 2000 to coordinate the **Holy Thursday Mass**. To volunteer, please contact: **Charles Agafili ('Salz')** at : **021 061 0560** or email at : salzagafili@challenge2000.org.nz

Bishops' Lenten Appeal:

Donate online at <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give> or by bank transfer to **03-0518-0211216-000** (use "Lent" and your name as particulars). Bishops' Lenten Appeal envelopes are available at Mass throughout Lent. Thank you for helping vulnerable communities worldwide. For details, email caritas@caritas.org.nz or call **0800 22 10 22**.

Parish Ministry Property Consultation Workshops : The Parish Property Committee invites parishioners to attend consultation workshops to help shape the location and design of our future church. Upcoming Workshops:

- Parish Schools (staff and boards) – 26 March
- Ethnic Communities – 28 March
- Workshop after the 11am Mass – 6 May

Please RSVP to pv@stfrancisohariu.nz with your name and anyone attending. Everyone is welcome! Your views are important to us.

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

Diamond Jubilee – The Catholic Parish of Wellington South invites past and present parishioners to celebrate key milestones on **Sunday, 19 April 2026**. These include 120 years since the first St Francis de Sales Church (1906), 60 years since the current church opened (1966), and 100 years since St Madeleine Sophie School. A special Mass will be followed by lunch at the Pines Cabaret, Houghton Bay. Register your interest at: office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation : Love is a Decision & Commit. Online registration is available via the Archdiocese of Wellington [website](#). The next course runs on **Sundays 7 & 14 June, 10am–4pm at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie** (attendance at both sessions required). For overseas marriage information and required documents, see the website or email marriage@cadw.nz

Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now!

Enrolments are now open. See full details and download the application form from **our website** [here](#) or email: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz
Enrolments close 1 July 2026.

Quote from Pope Leo :

'Today, in a particular way, in the face of the many questions of the human heart, as well as the tragic situations of injustice, violence and suffering that mark our time, it is essential that our faith be alert, attentive and prophetic. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world, and bring to others the light of the Gospel through our commitment to peace, justice and solidarity.'

Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, 15 March 2026

Parish Office: 37 Dr Taylor Tce, Johnsonville

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm

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

Account name: ARCHDIO OF WGTN ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

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

