



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

Where heaven and earth come together

Palm Sunday - 29 March 2026, Year A

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27,66

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 : 5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: **NO Reconciliation**
NO MASS

Reconciliation : Every Friday
during Lent at 6.30-7.30 pm or
by arrangement with office 04
478 7137

Important Dates

1 April 2026

Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart
Cathedral 7.30 pm

2 April 2026

Holy Thursday Mass at 7.00 pm

3 April 2026

-Station of the Cross : 9.30 am
followed by Ecumenical Walk
at 10.45 am

- Liturgy and Veneration : 3 pm

Reflection

Christ rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and here is a poem about a donkey:

*When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood then surely I was born*

*With monstrous head and sickening cry and ears like errant wings –
The devil's walking parody on all four-footed things.*

*The tattered outlaw of the earth, Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb – I keep my secret still;*

*FOOLS ! for I also had my hour:
One far fierce hour and sweet
There was a shout about my ears
And palms before my feet*

In a reflection earlier this year I wrote of God choosing those whom the world thinks common and contemptible: and here is another example of the same- Jesus rides on a donkey – the beast of burden, the hauler of carts: He doesn't ride in on a splendid Arab stallion – nope – just a donkey. And even to this day the donkey carries the sign of the cross on its back.

As this Franciscan Year progresses let us always recall that God looks with favour on the poor and the lowly and St Francis did also – his best work is with the poor and the lowly.

So how are we able to follow this example? How can we be the beast of burden who proudly carries OUR Christ: Is there a migrant family we can help? They are even poorer than we are – strangers in a strange land; can we give more generously to the Vinnies? - the Seven Corporal works of Mercy. If we have a large vegetable garden can some of the produce go to Challenge 2000? What small item can we put in the basket each week?

Next week Christ will again burst forth from the tomb to astound the world – what can WE do to astound the world and ourselves?

Tony de Joux

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Angele Little; Sister Ancilla OSB , Jamberoo Abbey, NSW

Anniversary: Marshal Henry Concessio; Paul Parampil; Adoracion Pulmano; Reynaldo Chua

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

Chrism 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

Station of the Cross: 9.30 AM followed
 by Ecumenical Walk of the Cross at 10.45 am

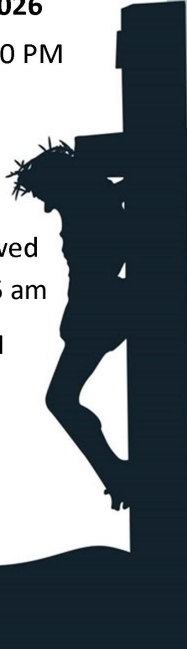
Liturgy and Veneration : 3.00 PM

Holy Saturday , 4 April 2026

Easter Vigil Mass at 7.00 PM

Easter Sunday , 5 April 2026

Mass at 10.00 AM



Children's Liturgy: This Sunday 29th March is the last Children's Liturgy session for this term. The 1st session for the 2nd term will be on **Sunday 26th April**.

Paddling Pool Needed – Easter Baptism

We are seeking to borrow a child's paddling pool for an immersion baptism this Easter. Please contact Wendy at cleaver@actrix.co.nz if you can assist.

Challenge 2000 Movie Fundraiser : Join us for **HOLY DAYS**, a comedy filmed in NZ, **on Sunday 19 April at 7:45pm at Lighthouse Cinema Petone**. Tickets are \$30 or you can sponsor one. Pay to Challenge 2000 Trust (01-0519-0057660-046) using "Movie" as reference, and RSVP to info@challenge2000.org.nz with the number of tickets. Tickets will be emailed to you.

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**.

Feast of the Divine Mercy 2026



The Divine Mercy Community of the Wellington Archdiocese warmly invites you to come together to celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy 2026 at St Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Island Bay on **Sunday, 12 April 2026**. Schedule as follows:

- 2:00 PM** Confessions, Eucharist Adoration and Worship,
- 3:00 PM** Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction
- 3:30 PM** Holy Mass
- 4:30 PM** Final Blessing, Blessing of Divine

Mercy Image, Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image , Blessing of personal religious objects, Refreshments and Fellowship follows (please bring a plate to share)

5:00 PM End of celebration

Contact : Masani Aukusitino (029 2009 504)

Email : masani111@yahoo.com.au

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:

- 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.



PONTIFICAL
GOOD FRIDAY
COLLECTION

Please support this collection on Good Friday
 A special collection will be taken at the end of the service
 Please place your donation into the baskets at the door of the church

To sustain the "living stones" (local Christians) and maintain holy places amid economic hardship, war, and reduced pilgrim numbers.

Quote from Pope Leo :

'Christ's grace illumines this world, which seems to constantly search for novelty and change, even at the cost of sacrificing important things — time, energy, values, affections — as if fame, material goods, entertainment and fleeting relationships could fill our hearts or make us immortal. It is a symptom of a longing for the infinite that each of us carries within us, a need that cannot be satisfied by passing things. Nothing finite can quench our inner thirst, for we are made for God, and we find no peace until we rest in him.'

Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, 22 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**

