



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty Seventh Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 4 October 2026, Year A
Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Phillippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43

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: 10.00am Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 5.00 pm Reconciliation
5.30 pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation
11.00 am Mass followed
by morning tea

Reconciliation can also be
requested by arrangement with
office 04 478 7137

Holy Hour/Adoration every

Wednesday at 7.00 pm

Important Dates

4 October 2026

Feast of St Francis of Assisi

4 October 2026

Suzanne Aubert National Centennial Mass at SMOA : 2.00 pm

9/10 October 2026

Parish visit to Ngā Hau e Whā marae Papararangi,

Reflection

St Francis of Assisi was born into a wealthy noble family, but was one to reject these material riches and live a life of poverty. Perhaps what is never often described more is his strength of character to reject the trappings of control and power through a "Tower of Babel" over other human beings. In the particular order of our society, power and authority is inevitably real and perceived. We often fear "rocking the boat", because we are afraid of what that will do to our own reputation. We naturally protect our own interests and safety at all costs. That's because we perceive authority to come from masters/bosses to slaves/servants.

St Francis was respectful of those with authority 'over' him (such as the Pope) but did so not because they were powerful, or to stroke their egos to gain a hierarchical or personal advantage. He strived for the Common Good, and cared for the purpose of all Creation. He saw solidarity in brotherhood and sisterhood because they were simply created in the Image of God. That was why St Francis had courage to cross enemy lines and instigated dialogue rather than conflict. He wasn't interested in protecting personal interests. He was lovingly building the Kingdom of God, connecting the living stones of humanity. St Francis embodied everything "that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise" (Philippians 4:8). He knew that only understanding through God brought peace - **Fr . Alfred Tong.**



Remembering Sister Cyprian (1925-2026). We would like to extend our condolences, prayers and thoughts to the Brigidine Sisters as well as her family at this time, Sr Cyprian was well known as an instrumental legend, example of faith and teacher, She will be missed by all of us. She recently celebrated her 80th (Oak) Jubilee of Profession as a Brigidine Religious Sister.

Eternal Rest Grant unto her O Lord; and let Perpetual Light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.

Quote: "When people become self-centred and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. As these attitudes become more widespread, social norms are respected only to the extent that they do not clash with personal needs. So, our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction."

Action: Take some time to reflect on the times when personal material needs have overtaken building positive relationships with those dear to you.

Pope Francis Laudato Si # 204

Remembering the Holy Souls Recently Deceased : Sr Cyprian

Prayers for the sick:

Irene Stonyer , Vaeluaga Aspinall , Sam Godinet, Theresa Peteli, 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, Tau So'oa, John Fanning, Domingo Basilio Navera Jr, Joe Godinet, Augafa & Sefine Pelelo, Fr Maurice Carmody, Fr Peter O'Connell.

For the latest information visit the Parish Website - <https://www.stfrancisohariu.nz>

Parish visit to Ngā Hau e Whā marae Papararangi, 9/10 Oct. A time to learn about things Māori and build connections. If you are interested or have not had the chance to visit a marae, please email the parish office, or speak to Fr Gerard. There is room for about 30 to stay overnight and opportunity to participate for either the Friday night or Saturday programmes.

World Youth Day 2027 - Join us for a special **WYD 2027 Launch Mass with Archbishop Paul Martin on Wednesday, 7 October 2026, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Thorndon.** Following Mass, we invite you to an Information Session at Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, 7.30pm to 8.30pm, where you can learn about the itinerary. Contact **Susilo Kentjana** at s.kentjana@cadw.nz

Greccio: The Song – A Musical Coming to Wellington: Journey with St Francis of Assisi to Greccio this **5 December.** **Allan Gibbs Centre, Wellington College.**

Challenge 2000 Community Quiz Night is back!

Get your team of 6 together for a fun night of trivia, laughs and community spirit, all while supporting young people and families. **\$20 per person, Sunday 11 October 5–7pm at Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Johnsonville.** Book now: info@challenge2000.org.nz Then pay directly

Health & Safety Volunteer Needed

Volunteer needed to help oversee Health & Safety at SFOA Church. To ensure our health and safety practices are up to date, as well as arranging training for volunteers on how to use the defibrillator located in the hall. If you interested in volunteering please email parish office.

St Joseph's Catholic School, New Plymouth 1926 – 2026 : warmly invites past students, staff, and families to celebrate its Centenary **Jubilee from Friday 23 October to Sunday 25 October 2026.** Please register here:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeUuzs83RR.../viewform...>

Hikoi for Palestine on Saturday, 10 October at 11.00am. Join the Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission with the Catholic Peacemakers banner and participate in the International Day for Action for Palestine which in Wellington is being organised by Justice for Palestine. Gather at Parliament Lawn then hikoi to Te Ngākau/Civic Square. **Contact: Deirdre d.meskill@cadw.nz for more information.**

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver Shared Spring Dinner – This fundraiser supports the missions and will be held on **Saturday, 10 October 2026 at 6.30pm at St. Anne's Hall, 22 Emmett Street, NEWTOWN.** Bring your favourite dish to share. **Admission : \$15; 6 to 12yrs: \$10; under 6yrs: Free.** Tickets & more information: peterclaverwgn@gmail.com

From Liturgy Committee : The Liturgy Committee will occasionally share aspects of our weekend worship. Questions or clarifications can be sent through the parish office. **Silence:** You are encouraged to enjoy, respect and utilize the moments of silence during Mass. In our busy world, such moments are rare. 1 Kings 19 reminds us that God speaks to us in the silence, rather than in the noise of wind, earthquake or fire.

Bishops' Election Statement: New Zealand's bishops have released their 2026 General Election statement, Discerning our Nation's Future through a Gospel Lens. It encourages Catholics and people of good will to prayerfully consider candidates' and parties' positions on key issues when voting. Statement: <https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26>

Volunteer Needed!! Our Sacramental Programme team is looking for a volunteer to help lead children's sessions for 2027! With some of our current team moving on next year and our group sizes growing, extra hands will make a huge difference. If you'd like to support our young people in their faith journey please reach out to the team at : sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

Joshua Catholic Men's Retreat: Saturday 10 October 2026, Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington between 8:30am and 5pm. Theme: 'I am ready for anything anywhere' (Philippians 4:12) led by Murray Adams, Ignatian Spiritual Director. Morning/afternoon tea and lunch provided. **Suggested koha \$25.** Contact: **Steve 027 356 9555** or joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Harvest Festival Food Drive : Join Challenge 2000 on **Sunday, October 4, 1–4 PM at 23 Dr Taylor Terrace.** Bring canned or dried goods, toiletries, long-life milk or spreads to support local families. Enjoy a BBQ, games, prizes and raffles while giving back to our community!

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website: [Marriage - Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington](https://www.marriage-catholic-archdiocese-of-wellington.org.nz). Next available course, consecutive Sundays, **1st & 8th November 2026 from 10.00am - 4.00pm.** Couples attend both Sundays together in person. Please note: the November course is the last course for the year and is very popular ahead of the peak wedding season. The first course of 2027 will be in early March. Please register early. See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any email queries contact: marriage@cadw.nz

Upcoming ONLINE Safeguarding Workshops: Join one of our online safeguarding workshops : **Monday, 5 Oct (12noon-1.15pm), Tuesday, 17 Oct (7.00pm-8.15pm)** To register, email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz

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**

