



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Website: www.stfrancisohariu.nz

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

1st Week of Advent 1 December 2024, Year C

Readings: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2 Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

WYSIWYG

These letters stand for "What You See Is What You Get".

Around 50 years ago, computers were hard to work with. You had to remember and type complicated commands or keyboard functions into the computer even to carry out basic things such as printing the right document.

Until someone invented a "GUI" - a Graphics User Interface that allows you to, with the point and click of a mouse, preview a document on the screen before you printed it. So there's no surprises on what you are printing - literally, what you see on the screen is what you get on paper. Except well, maybe, you by mistake printed it portrait when you wanted the landscape orientation!

As WSIWYG applies to printing documents, so it apply to our lives. Are our lives like bad, corrupted files that take up storage space, registers on the computer and looks ok on the directory listings, and yet fails to load and print as it purposefully should? When a USB stick is pulled out of the computer too quickly or violently, damage is done to the contents of the files, which now cannot be printed or used. Integrity - what it had within the file - is lost.

This Advent, are our lives expressive of the kind of life we are meant to live? Are others getting what they are seeing with our lives? Like pulling USB sticks too quickly off the computer, because we are rushing to get things done, perhaps it's time to look at gentle, realistic and honest actions that reinforce the good health of our lives.

Ngā manaakitanga, Fr Alfred.

Parish Information

First Sunday of Advent – new beginnings

St Paul encourages us, “we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants”.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of the Church year, and the beginning of the season when we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

It is entirely appropriate then that we receive six people as Catechumens. They, with the guidance of their sponsors, are on the path to being baptised and confirmed into the Christian life, and will share in the Eucharist at the table of the Lord for the first time at the Easter Vigil.

Like all the baptised are obligated to do, they are discerning their contribution to the Church’s mission, the mission commanded by Jesus himself.

For the past thirteen years I have devoted my life to Lay Ecclesial (Pastoral) Leadership, four of those in formation, and nine in service in parishes, working alongside clergy in a collaborative and co-responsible way.

In times of financial constraint, we all have to make choices as to where we allocate our finances. The Archdiocese has decided to reduce its financial commitment to Lay Ecclesial Leadership. I have chosen redundancy. I finish in the parish on 13 December.

Like our Catechumens I am now discerning God's plan for me as I move forward.

It has been extremely rewarding working in parish leadership alongside priests. It has been hugely satisfying to accompany parishioners as they respond to the call to ministry. It has been life-giving to be with parishioners at key points in their lives, some incredibly heart rending, some joyous.

Therefore, as St Paul urges, let us all “make more and more progress in the kind of life that we are meant to live: the life that God wants”.

Thank you, and every blessing for a safe festive season.

Joe Green, Lay Pastoral Leader

St Brigid's School Term 4 Masses and Liturgies

Here are the dates for the rest of our Term 4 Team and School Masses & Liturgies (in the church)

We would love you to join us.

Titipounamu - 3 December Liturgy

School Masses:

End of Year Mass - 17 December 11am



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**.

St Andrew's Feast Day

This **Saturday 30th November** is the Feast of St Andrew the Apostle, as well as the 1st Sunday of Advent.

A photo album commemorating the closing Mass at St Andrew's last year, will be on a table in the foyer before Mass this Saturday and the following Saturday for you to look at.

Malvina Major Anointing Mass:

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



*Please note this is a week earlier than the date originally advertised.
Enquiries: Judith 021 203 1144.

Christmas Cards

The St Vincent de Paul Ohariu Conference have SVdP Christmas cards available for sale and our conference members will be selling them at both of the parish masses.

They come as two different packs of five different cards with variations of Christmas crib scenes for \$5 per pack.



Parish & Other Information

Volunteers required for Christmas Masses

Thank you to those who have replied yes or no to my email regarding Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas Vigil.

I now require Eucharistic Ministers and Proclaimers for the 10 am Mass on Christmas Day. I'm sending out today requests for other roles on the list.

Many thanks and God bless. Colleen"

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.

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!

Other Information

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.

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.



Remembrance and recommitment ceremony (Rā Maumaharatanga) at Korokoro cemetery: THIS WEEKEND

You are welcome to join a peaceful hikoi starting beside the grave of famous chief Wi Tako at the Catholic Cemetery on the corner of Pito-one Street and Korokoro Road on **Sunday 1 December 2024**. Assemble at cemetery from 1:30pm.

Our kaupapa will be to recall and pray for the tipuna interred in this important site and learn about our shared histories. It is also a reminder of the joint kaitiakitanga of this special place, cared for by Wi Tako's descendants, the Love whanau, parishioners from Te Wairua Tapu / Holy Spirit parish, and the Hutt City Council. Wi Tako was buried at Korokoro in 1887 from St Peter and Paul's church in Lower Hutt.

Following the service we will proceed – by foot or vehicle – for 15 minutes to Te Puni urupā in Te Puni Street, then another 15 minutes to Sacred Heart Church, 41 Britannia Street to share stories and a cuppa. Car parking adjacent to Korokoro cemetery.

NB: please do not bring food on to the cemeteries, food will be provided at the church.

For details please contact Gerard Daignan 027 265 6085

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.

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://](http://www.marchforlife.nz)

www.marchforlife.nz

MARCH FOR LIFE
NEW ZEALAND

Archbishop's Appeal: Support Our Seminarians

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

Christian Perspectives on the Treaty Principles Bill

Invitation to Participate **Wednesday 4 December** at St Thomas More Church (30 Worcester St Wilton) 6.00 pm beginning with a simple dinner, 6.30pm – 8.00pm Video and discussion 'Stand up for Te Tiriti: Christian Perspectives on the Treaty Principles Bill'

This is a critical time to understand and become involved in the Treaty Principles Bill. This is a justice issue that will influence how the Treaty is understood in the years to come.

As an Advent activity, the Ōtari Parish Justice, Peace and Development group invite you to come along to a workshop to learn more about the bill and the key concerns from a Christian perspective. Together, in our faith community, we will gather ideas to empower us to make submissions opposing the Bill. (This video resource is provided by the Ecumenical Group 'Common Grace Aotearoa' and its use is supported by the Archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission

<https://www.treatyandbelonging.nz/speakup.>)

Please Register to attend by emailing office@otariparish.co.nz or by the Sign-up Sheet in the Church Foyer for catering purposes.

Quote from Pope Francis

'We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life's anxieties. Today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart, what weights on my spirit, am I aware or indifferent to the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of [others]? These are good questions as they guard our hearts against apathy, the enemy of the spiritual life.'

Pope Francis, Angelus, [First Sunday of Advent](#) 28/11/2021

'...we know that authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and to creation as a whole'. Laudate Deum 61

Action: What does guarding against apathy and indifference look like for you as you begin your 2024 Advent journey?

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

MASS INTENTIONS

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



Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Jackie Vaughan, Winnie Dooley

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 30th November - Friday 6th December

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10.00am Mass

Tues: 9.15am St Brigid's Titipounamu - Mass 5.30pm Evening Mass

Wed: 11.00am Mass- followed by Morning Tea

Thurs: 9am Liturgy

Fri: 8.30am exposition and 9am Liturgy,



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