



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 10 May 2026, Year A
Readings: Acts 8:5-8,14-17; 1Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

Parish Priest

Msgr Gerard Burns
g.burns@cadw.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr Alfred Tong
alfred@stfrancisoahariu.nz

Parish Office Hours

04 478 7137
Mon to Thurs : 9am to 2pm
office@stfrancisoahariu.nz

Mass/Liturgy Times

For the coming week

Sat: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sun: 10am Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 5.00pm Reconciliation
5.30pm Mass

Wed: 10.30 am Reconciliation
11.00 Mass followed by
morning tea

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

Holy Hour /Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament : Every
Wednesdays 7.00 pm

Important Dates

13 May 2026

Parish Property Consultation
Workshop after 11 am Mass

17 - 22 May 2026

Retreat in Daily Life

22 May 2026

Pentecost Sunday

Reflection

I started to reflect on the first reading about Philip going to Samaria and converting the Samaritans – I must admit to not having come across this before. But then my eye caught the phrase “They laid hands upon them and they received the Holy Spirit”

My first reaction was completely irreverent - “You just wait until I lay my hands on you” and I can quite vividly remember one or both of my parents using that phrase in exasperation as I was growing up – I was bit of a wild child. And then my mind moved on to when I was about 12 or 13 and I was confirmed by the late Bishop John Kavanagh – and as a sign of my acceptance as a “soldier of Christ” he laid his hands on my shoulders. Can you remember when someone last laid their hands upon your shoulders as a sign of friendship.

And again my mind turned to today being Mothers' Day, What is there to say about this day? Yes, it's an artificial concept but it is so well beloved in many countries of the world. The mere thought of “mother” will bring back memories of your very earliest days as a child and then the constant care and love that a mother brought you as you grew up. Perhaps there some for whom such a memory is not at all pleasant. On this mothers' day perhaps we could offer a prayer for the mothers who didn't meet our expectations. And then there is Mary, Mother of God -the ultimate model of motherhood – and we know that model is so remote for us to even conceive of and yet she was a mother the same as any mother – recall her agony as she searches for the missing Jesus only to find him in the temple “Why have you done this to us” (more likely “Just where do you think you have been!!) but back in the original Greek it becomes a cry of agony as she searches.

SO – for the mothers of today – this is a day in which you can truly accept all the love your children give you – take it, cherish it and keep on loving them with all your heart. - And for the daughters and sons – your mother is the only one you have = whether it's your birth mother, adopted mother, grandmother or maybe even the mother whom you totally dislike – she's still your mother. Love is the most important thing on Mothers' Day, followed by a prayer for your mother The next important thing is flowers and/or chocolate and then a great big hug.

Tony De Joux

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Alesana Ioane (Nephew of Mel Aspinall), Tokorima (Rima) Gale
Anniversary:

Prayers for the sick: Vaeluaga Aspinall , Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotiti Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'I, Carmen Godinez, Lote So'oa, Fr Joe Savei, 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.stfrancisoahariu.nz>

Listening to the Spirit - Retreat in Daily Life, May 17-22, 2026: The retreat will begin with a guided prayer with the whole group on **Sunday 17 May at 7pm in St Francis of Assisi church in Johnsonville**. Each day, you'll pray with a provided scripture and are encouraged to set aside a regular time and there will be an opportunity to gather in groups at the church for no more than one hour to briefly share one thing from your prayer and experience, led by a spiritual director. **The retreat concludes on Friday 22 May at 7pm** with a larger group gathering at the church. An individual spiritual direction is available during the week if needed. Please register by email to : office@stfrancisohariu.nz by **Monday 11 May**. Participation by koha, but all welcome.

OCIA Information Evening : for individuals wishing to become baptised Catholics, or those who have already been baptised and would like to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, sessions will be held on **Tuesday 9 June and Saturday 13 June at 7:00pm** at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish Church. For more information, please contact ocia@stfrancisohariu.nz.



Next weekend is **Called By Name Sunday**, encouraging young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood. Archbishop Paul has a message for you to read or hear. Parishioners are invited to notice and encourage young men, especially those showing faith, leadership, and service, to consider God's call.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship : Come and join other men at Joshua Wellington's next meeting on Thursday **21st May 2026** from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral). Speaker: **Ben D'Souza sm** Assistant Priest at St Mary of the Angels on "Strive to be one with Jesus – no matter what" Want to know more? Ring David Monstra 027-4477 280 email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

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

Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now!
See full details and download the application form from our website [here](http://www.stfrancisohariu.nz) or email: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz **Enrolments close 1 July '26**

The ANZAC Day Service at Malvina Major Retirement Village



on 25 April 2026, to honour and remember those who served in the armed forces. In addition to the parish service, Fr Alfred led this commemoration at the village, offering prayers and support to residents and the wider community.

Blessing of the SFOA Community and Parish garden.



For our May year of St Francis of Assisi event the parish community gathered on Sunday, 3 May after the 10:00am Mass, where Fr. Gerard blessed winter planting parish garden in a joyful celebration, giving thanks for this shared

space and those who care for it.

Parish Property Consultation Workshops

The Parish property group invites all parishioners to the consultation on the future location and design of our church. Incoming workshops :

Community workshops : **13 May (post 11 am mass; 31 May at 11.30 am ; 14 June at 11.30 am ; 20 June at 2pm ONLINE** (RSVP mandatory)

If you are unable to attend any of these sessions please send your feedback to pv@stfrancisohariu.nz

All feedback must be received by **6PM, 22 June 2026** to enable the team to pull together the final report by the early July.

Planned Giving Envelopes & Tax Receipts

Most Tax receipts have now been emailed. New envelopes are ready to collect from the church foyer

Quote :

"It is wonderful to think that, when we consider our individual calling, the situations we encounter and the people entrusted to our care, our commitments and responsibilities, and our service in the Church, each of us can say with confidence: "Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell within me. He accompanies me with his Spirit; he enlightens me and makes me an instrument of his love for others, for society and for the world."

Pope Leo XIV Regina Caeli, 25 May 2025

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**

