



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty Fourth Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 13 September 2026, Year A
Readings: Sirach 27:30– 28:7 ; Romans 14: 7-9 ; Matthew 18:21-35

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**

Reflection

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a quiet yet profound milestone in a young person's life. It marks a deliberate step forward in their spiritual journey, sealing them in the Holy Spirit and deepening their connection to the Church. This Sunday, our parish family led by Archbishop Paul Martin has the privilege of witnessing 56 children receive this sacrament—a milestone that asks something of us as a community as much as it offers something to them.

For a child to grow in faith, they must first feel a genuine sense of belonging. Faith is rarely built in isolation; it is caught through the warmth, patience, and inclusion of a parish that truly sees them. How we welcome our young people directly shapes how they understand God's love. If we want our children to believe, we must first ensure they know they belong.

Jesus set this standard clearly when He told His disciples, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). His words were a reminder that children are not merely the future of the Church—they are an active, vital part of its present. May we commit to being a community where they are always welcomed, listened to, and supported in their Catholic faith.

Natasha Telles

Important Dates

13 September 2026

Sacrament of Confirmation at
2.00pm

22 September 2026

Alpha Promo Night at 7.00pm

23 September 2026

Malvina Major Anointing Mass at
2.00pm

26 - 27 September 2026

Suzanne Aubert Feast & Migrant
and Refugee Sunday

Please pray for the children who will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 13 September 2026 at 2.00 pm , with Archbishop Paul.** May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them on their journey of faith.

Quote :

'Evangelical justice does not take away from human justice, but challenges and refines it. It prompts human justice to go ever further, impelling it towards the pursuit of reconciliation. Evil, in fact, must not only be punished but also repaired, and to this end, it is necessary to look deeply at the well-being of individuals and the common good.'

Pope Leo XIV Jubilee of Justice 20/09/2025

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Eldon Porter, Mark Porter, Antonio Moreno Jr , Leonarda Zodiacal, Consuelo Roa, Joseph Mathew Kulathinal Sr.

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>

Housing Election Forum 2026 will be held on **Wednesday, 23 September, at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, cnr Hill & Molesworth Streets**. Refreshments from 5.45pm, forum from 6.30–8pm. Archbishop Paul Martin, Archbishop Justin Duckworth, church leaders, community advocates and political representatives discuss housing insecurity, possible solutions, and where political parties stand on housing in NZ. Check: <https://www.youtube.com/live/KNO3vzFBfVo> for the livestream. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/4329746410688397>

Tindall Foundation Funding – Applications Open: Parish groups, Catholic agencies and related organisations focused on intergenerational wellbeing are invited to apply. Funding priorities include young families, essential needs, social cohesion, rangatahi empowerment and resourced communities. **Applications close Friday, 2 Oct 2026**. Information, applications: <https://cadw.nz/tindall/>

Homestay Needed for 2027 Mandarin Language Assistant

We seek a welcoming New Zealand family to host our 2027 Mandarin Language Assistant, **arriving late January 2027** to work at St Benedict's and St Brigid's Schools. The homestay is **from early Feb-early Dec, with rent of \$350 per week**. Ideally, a home within walking distance of the Johnsonville train line. Interested? Please contact **Tania Savage** at principal@st-benedicts.school.nz

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 to Challenge 2000: **01-0519-0057660-46** Reference: Quiz Night + your name or pay by cash/efpos on the night

Foster Care Information Evening

Have you ever thought about fostering? Come along to our information evening to learn more, ask questions, and discover how you could make a difference in the lives of children and young people. **Join us on Thursday 24 September at 7:00pm at the Salvation Army, 177 Main Road, Tawa**. Tea, coffee and supper provided.

Malvina Major : Anointing Mass at Malvina Major, **Wednesday, 23 September 2026 at 2.00 pm**

Thinking about becoming Catholic? The OCIA Programme has begun. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming Catholic, we warmly invite you to get in touch with **Fr Alfred or Ning** at ocia@stfrancisohariu.nz by **Sunday, 20 September**.

Food Bank: Donations are gratefully welcomed and help provide food and essentials to families in need. Please place your donation in the basket to be presented during the Offertory. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Suzanne Aubert Feast & Migrant and Refugee Sunday

We mark **Sr Suzanne Aubert's anniversary** and work by a **Multicultural Mass at 10:00 am Mass, Sunday 27 September** to celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions enriching our parish, followed by a shared meal. Everyone is invited to bring a dish representing their culture. Families needing financial assistance to participate may confidentially contact **Hellen**, parish outreach worker at outreach@stfrancisohariu.nz or **0223007413** for a **\$50 voucher**. Similarly there will also be a **Multicultural Mass at the Cathedral at 2:00 pm**. All are warmly welcome.

School Holiday Programme : The parish is once again offering a **free holiday programme for children aged 5–13 during the September/October school holidays, on 29 September, 1, 6 and 8 October from 10am–4pm**. The days will include fun activities and a special focus on Suzanne Aubert. Donations towards the programme are welcome. Registration forms are available from Hellen : outreach@stfrancisohariu.nz or Kitty: kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz The programme is run by trained teachers, parish workers and parishioners. Senior college and university students are also welcome to join and be trained as volunteers.

eXaLT (XLT): Join us for eXaLT – “**FAITH IN ACTION**” on **Friday, 25 September, 7–9pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa**. An evening of Adoration, Reconciliation, Music, Prayer & Fellowship for teens and young adults. Come, bring a friend, and be renewed in faith!

Joshua Catholic Men's Evening & Retreat

Join the Joshua Men's Evening on **Thursday, 17 September at Connolly Hall, with a cuppa at 7:00pm and a 7:30pm start**. Theme: “Be Grateful for God's Forgiving Love.” Save the date for the **Men's 1-Day Retreat on Saturday, 10 October, 8:30am–4:45pm at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay**. For more information, contact **Steve Ready** on **027 356 9555** or joshua.wgtn@gmail.com.

EXALT: CHRIST THE KING 2026 – “CHARIS” NZ National Event: All are warmly invited to a national day of worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship and Eucharistic celebration at **Sacred Heart Cathedral, Wellington, on Saturday, 21 November 2026, 10.30am–3.30pm**. Archbishop Paul Martin will preside as we honour Christ our King and pray for our nation. For information: **027 347 6327** or currentofgracewellington@gmail.com

Spring of Life Fellowship (SLF) Garage Sale — Join us at **St Anne's Parish Hall, Newtown, on Saturday, 26 September, 8am–12pm**, for great bargains on homewares, clothes, books and baked treats, with haircuts from 10am. **Donations: St Anne's parish hall, Newtown Friday, 25 September, 4–7pm (no old TVs/monitors)**. Cash only. Proceeds support the Catholic Parish of Wellington South and SLF Outreach. Thank you for your support!

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**

