St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 15 November 2026, Year A
Readings:Proverb 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30

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

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
11.00am Mass followed by morning tea

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

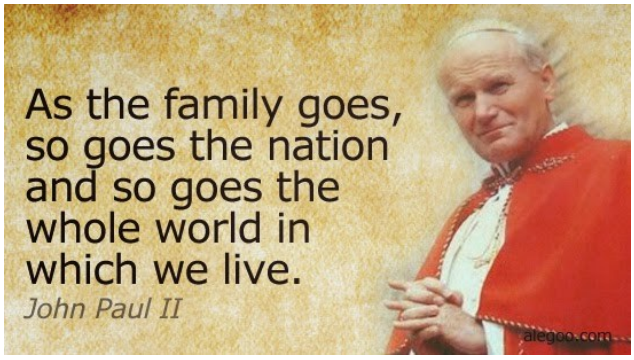
Important Dates

15 November 2026
First Holy Communion Mass at 2.00 pm

18 November 2026
Advanced Care Planning Evening at 7.00 pm

25 November 2026
Malvina Major Anointing Mass at 2.00 pm

Reflection



Families come in all shapes and sizes. They are about people and relationships. Families are dynamic and changing.

At the heart of a family is the energy of love – a love that brings new life into the world; that shelters and nurtures its members; and gives a person a sense of belonging, a home.

Jesus was born into a family. By living in his family, Jesus shows us how to be a family. Families can experience hard times when circumstances inside and outside a family cause harm to and fracture that family. Families need our support while they heal.

Most families do their best for each other. Being part of a family can be both rewarding and challenging.

Family is a most radical sacrament of love.

Families have been called the Domestic Church – the church of the home whose calling is to show God's great love for the world.

A healthy society and a healthy parish are only possible when we have healthy families.

A family is the cornerstone of society and of church.

Let us pray for all families and gift them our practical support.

Let us today reflect on and give thanks for our families.

Judy McCormack

Quote :
'In Christ, we are called to become poor and to be a refuge for the poor. The Christian community cannot remain indifferent to the many who today stand at the door but remain invisible to those who are shut within their own walls. The Church, by its very nature, is called to be poor and a refuge for the poor.'

Pope Leo XIV Message for Tenth World Day of the Poor, 2026

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Malvina Major:

Anointing Mass **Wed, 25 November 2.00 pm** Chapel- Reflection Room.

From Parish Outreach Team.

The SFOA Community Outreach Group have been called upon to set up a house for a refugee family due to arrive in Wellington in early December. We desperately need: good quality woollen blankets, single or double duvet inners, good quality used bedlinen; towels; teatowels; general kitchen supplies including crockery and cutlery; glasses. If you can help, please phone: **Hellen Tusiime** our Outreach coordinator **on 0223007413** or email her at : outreach@stfrancisohariu.nz

Volunteers Wanted

Join Our Outreach Ministry Volunteer Team

Would you like to make a difference in our parish community? We're looking for caring volunteers to support holiday programmes, foodbank assistance, community gardens, and refugee and migrant families through English language support and conversation practice. Training and ongoing support will be provided. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to help and a heart for service.

As part of our safeguarding commitment, all volunteers must complete Police vetting after training. If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you! Please email;

Kitty McKinley: kittymckinley@xtra.co.nz

Hellen Tusiime: outreach@stfrancisohariu.nz

Training Date: 17th & 19th November 2026

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Venue: Challenge 2000 Johnsonville

Christmas Hampers — Sharing Aroha This Christmas: As we prepare for Christmas, we invite you to share aroha with those in need by supporting the St Vincent de Paul and Challenge 2000 Christmas Hamper Appeal. You can place donated items in the box in the church, or make a financial contribution to: **Challenge Trust 2000 — 01-0519-0057660-46**. For ideas on what to donate, please take a gift tag from the Christmas tree. Every item and every act of generosity helps bring hope to a whānau this Christmas.

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship invites both men and women to our end of year Mass in **Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon** *(not Sacred Heart Cathedral)* **followed by supper at 7:30pm on Thursday 19th November. Celebrant: Fr Peter Ewart sm, Joshua chaplain.** Want to know more? Ring **Steve Ready: 027-356-9555**

email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

INVITATION TO SHARE STORIES OF SYNODALITY:

We invite parishioners, parish groups, leadership teams, religious congregations and faith communities throughout the Archdiocese to reflect on the fruits of a synodal Church emerging in their local communities, and to share their stories with the wider Church. Your contributions will help give shape to a diocesan report, which in turn will provide reflection material for diocesan and national Evaluation Assemblies in 2027. **Submit your story by Monday, 7 December 2026.**

Visit www.cadw.nz or email Lucienne Hensel at: l.hensel@cadw.nz for more details.

Special Mass in Spanish: Sunday, 29 Nov, 12noon at St Joseph's church, Mt Victoria, Wellington. Organised by the Peruvian Embassy. In Peru a major devotion is that of the Lord of the Miracles. Millions accompany the October processions through Lima and other places. The Lord of the Miracles is also a patron saint for the Peruvian diaspora and a local version of the image hangs in the foyer of St Joseph's. All are welcome.

Catholic Social Service Annual Appeal 2026 : help us help people feel belonging!

This has been a challenging year for many, especially the poor and vulnerable among us. This is why the Catholic Social Services Annual Appeal is so important. **Running from 1-30 November,** the Annual Appeal asks for community support so Catholic Social Services can continue supporting people and their whānau who need help. You can scan the QR code to donate. Donations can also be made online cadw.nz/our-work/catholic-social-services/donate

PARISH AND ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

Bereavement Ministry's evening : Advanced Care planning

Planning for the Future: What Matters Most to You?

We plan for retirement, we plan our holidays, and we map out our career goals—but have you ever taken a moment to plan for your future care? Thinking ahead isn't about focusing on the end; it's about giving yourself and your family total peace of mind today. An Advance Care Plan is simply a way to explore, talk about, and share your choices regarding your future health and lifestyle preferences. It ensures that if there ever comes a time when you can't speak for yourself, your voice, your values, and your comforts are still clearly heard.

Join us for an informative, relaxed, and uplifting Advance Care Planning Evening. We will unpack the simple planning process, share practical conversation starters to use with your loved ones, and guide you through official tools. It will be held on **Wednesday 18 November 2026 from 7.00—8.00pm at St Francis of Assisi Church**.

What to expect: A welcoming, stress-free space with information, a step-by-step overview, and plenty of time for questions. **Speakers Vera Sullivan, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Gerontology and Jonathan Pereira, Lawyer.** Taking charge of your future is one of the most empowering gifts you can give to yourself and those you care about. Everyone is welcome!

YOUNG CHURCH THANKSGIVING MASS: As we approach the close of 2026, the Archdiocesan Young Church team warmly invites young people, youth, and young adult ministry leaders to gather in gratitude for the blessings of the past year. Join us for a Thanksgiving Mass with Archbishop Paul on **Saturday, 21 November 2026 (Christ the King Vigil Mass) at 5.30 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington.** Parents and caregivers, we encourage you to bring your teenagers to this meaningful celebration. We look forward to seeing many teenagers, young adults, and leaders there.

FINAL HOLY HOUR for vocations to the priesthood and religious life for this year.

JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! **7.30 - 8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Thorndon on Tuesday, 24 November.**

Life Teen Summer Camp - an opportunity for our youth

From 12-16 January 2027, Life Teen Summer Camp Aotearoa is being held in Rotorua. Life Teen is a Catholic youth ministry, and Summer Camp focuses on leading teens closer to Christ. This happens through prayer experiences, the Sacraments, community, and lots of fun. We have the opportunity to take a group of young people from our parish. If you will be at college next year, we'd love to have you join this group - email Caroline at willandcaro2025@gmail.com for more information. To check out photos and videos from previous camps, go to instagram @lifeteenaotearoanz or https://lifeteen.nz/



CALLED & EQUIPPED Formation Programme 2027 - Applications NOW OPEN! Are you looking for an opportunity to dig deeper into your faith, and to learn how to share it with others? Would you like to know more about what it means to be Catholic? Do you want to serve in your parish community, but feel you don't know enough? **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!** JOIN US on this exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service. For more information, contact: Lucienne Hensel at: l.hensel@cadw.nz / 04 496 1715 **or speak to your Parish Priest. Applications close on Tuesday,15 December 2026**

Remembering the Holy Souls



Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Caterina Smith, Maria Veronica Melani Liliawati Tjahjo

Prayers for the sick: Geraldine Donnelly, Kartini Havell, 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



BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Baptism usually takes place on the third weekend of each month, during:
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm or Sunday Mass: 10:00 am.
Please contact Katrina and Billie by email: baptism@stfrancisohariu.nz

PREFERENCE CERTIFICATE :

If you require a Preference Certificate from our parish for your child's enrolment at a Catholic school, please email your enquiry to the Parish Office : office@stfrancisohariu.nz
Please note that to obtain a Preference Certificate, you must be living within our parish boundaries.

CHILDREN LITURGY & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME :

There will be **NO Children's Liturgy on 15 November 2026. Children's Liturgy will be held on 22 & 29 November 2026 and 6 December 2026.** Please continue to pray for our children as they prepare to receive their **First Holy Communion on Sunday 15 November at 2:00 pm.**

Volunteer Needed!! We are looking for a volunteer to help lead children's sessions for 2027! If you'd like to support our young people in their faith journey please reach out to the team at : sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

Our Church Buildings UPDATE

St Benedicts property including church and presbytery has now been sold to a developer and **the settlement date was the 23 October 2026.** The funds from the sale are now on deposit with the ADF for a year.

A formal letter was sent in October to the archbishop seeking recognition that because of the consultations report Johnsonville be locked in as the site for our Parish Church. Also, we asked for guidance on the possible sale of St Andrews in Newlands.

We are hoping for a response prior to Christmas 2026. As part of the letter, we outlined that we are looking for volunteers to form a design/building group and a fundraising group of the development of our church in Johnsonville. Possibly 3 options will be drawn for presenting to the Parish with costings for a community decision. Maybe mid to late 2027.

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

