



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

Ascension Sunday – 17 May 2026, Year A
Readings: Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20

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: 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

**NO Holy Hour on Wednesday 20
May 2026.**

Important Dates

17 - 22 May 2026

Retreat in Daily Life

17 May 2026

Malvina Major Ascension Mass
at 10.30 am

22 May 2026

Pentecost Sunday

25 May 2026

Malvina Major Anointing Mass
at 2.00 pm

Reflection

Why do you stand looking in the sky?

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Christ Jesus into heaven. Forty days after Jesus had risen from the dead his disciples were with him near Bethany. Jesus just had finished speaking with them, telling them to "Go out to the whole world (and) proclaim the Good News to all creation" (Mark: 16) when he was "lifted up and a cloud took him from their sight." (First reading: Acts 1: 9)

We can imagine how puzzled and surprised the disciples must have been as they stood there trying to make sense of that they had just seen; and even more so when two men in white appeared and asked them why they were standing looking up into the sky when there was work to be done.

The work of proclaiming the Good News was an invitation to the disciples and to us today, to take action – to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger and above all work for peace.

Today more than ever our world needs all of us to respond in whatever ways we are able, to the needs of the hungry, the homeless and the displaced, bringing peace to a divided and war – weary world.

We are not alone in this.

Let us take time to read the beautiful and heartening blessing from Paul in his letter to the people of Ephesus. (Second reading: Ephesians 1: 17 -23)

May "the fullness of him who fills the whole creation" inspire us today.

Judy McCormack



Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Benedicta Seok-Pyo Hong (Ele's grandmother)

Anniversary: David Ogilvie , Brian Radomski

Prayers for the sick: Vaeluaga Aspinall , Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotiita 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, 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.stfrancisoHariu.nz>

Children Liturgy

There will be **NO** children liturgy this Sunday 17 May '26

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.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

Join us every Friday at 6:30 PM for the Divine Mercy Prayer and devotion. All are welcome.

Pentecostal Reflection & Charismatic Healing Mass

The Divine Retreat Centre NZ Wellington Unit invites everyone to a Pentecostal Reflection & Charismatic Healing Vigil Mass led by **Fr. Kevin Connors on Saturday, 23 May 2026, from 2.30pm–6.00pm at Our Lady of The Rosary Church**. Join us for worship, teachings, healing prayers, and Holy Mass as we experience the renewing presence of the Holy Spirit. For more details, please contact: drcnzwellingtonunit@gmail.com

Wairarapa Parish, 150th Anniversary of the first Catholic resident priest in the Wairarapa. **Saturday and Sunday, 20/21 June 2026**. You are cordially invited to the celebrations commemorating **Fr Antoine Halbwachs'** appointment as the very first official Catholic priest in the Wairarapa Valley which includes an anniversary mass, book launch, lunch and concerts. Please contact **Helen Morgan: 027 2256722** or helenm808@gmail.com

St Mary's College Open Day:

Tuesday 19 May 2026: 9am to 11am. Come and experience our welcoming school community! Tour the campus, meet our staff and students, and discover the opportunities available at St Mary's College.

St Pats College Open Day:

Tuesday 23 June 2026 between 10.00am to 11.30am and from 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Thursday 25 June between 10.00am to 11.30am and from 12.30pm to 2.00pm.

Parish Property Consultation Workshops

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

Malvina Major :

Ascension Mass **Sunday, 17 May 10.30 am,**

Anointing Mass **Wednesday, 27 May 2 00pm** at Burma Lounge

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**. Join us as we reconnect, share memories, and give thanks for 100 years of faith, community, and Catholic education. Please register here:

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

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 Monastira 027-4477 280 email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Today is **Called by Name Sunday!** Archbishop Paul invites young men in our parish community to be open to God's



call, and to consider a vocation to the priesthood. Cards are available in your pews. If you notice a young man who could be a potential candidate for priesthood, please pray for him, take a card and approach him with a word of encouragement. Thank you for supporting this important campaign!

Quote :

"Technology that exploits our need for relationships can lead not only to painful consequences in the lives of individuals, but also to damage in the social, cultural and political fabric of society. This occurs when we substitute relationships with others for AI systems that catalog our thoughts, creating a world of mirrors around us, where everything is made "in our image and likeness." We are thus robbed of the opportunity to encounter others, who are always different from ourselves, and with whom we can and must learn to relate. Without embracing others, there can be no relationships or friendships.'

Pope Leo XIV Message for World Day of Social Communications, 24 January 2026

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**

