



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

Where heaven and earth come together

Third Sunday of Easter – 19 April 2026, Year A
Readings: Acts 2: 14,22-28 ; 1Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

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

Reflection

Today's Gospel is extraordinarily different to what we have experienced this week in global politics. The Emmaus gospel is a story of encounter and dialogue, of respect, love and truth. An encounter of listening, walking, sharing feelings – fears and experiences, learning, searching for peace and hope as the two travel the dusty road.

This week we have seen 2/3 others walk along the dusty road of news broadcasts and social media on the international stage. President Trump loudly threatening annihilation, blockades, death and conquest and saying he is "not a big fan of Pope Leo". Pope Leo gently stating that he has a "moral duty" to stand up and promote "the message of the gospel which is – Blessed are the peacemakers" and encouraging us and governments to listen and journey with others in an Emmaus style encounter.

Last Sunday on a windy day our community joined in a Prayer Peace Vigil. It was a moving time of silence and encounter. Each person sat with a peace candle that they took home. I felt the power from those candles and heard the words of Pope Francis. "God does not like to be loved as one would love a ruler who leads his people to victory, annihilating his enemies in a blood-bath. Our God is a faint light burning on a cold and windy day". Jesus travels with us on our dusty road. Promising us that if we ask he will stay with us. That is

why like Leo we can travel with confidence and courage with our hearts burning in us and work to change the world.

Kitty McKinley



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

22 April 2026

Malvina Major Anointing Mass:
2.00pm in the Reflection Room -
Chapel.

25 April 2026

Anzac Day Service 2.00 pm

6 May 2026

Parish Property Consultation
Workshop after 11 am Mass

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Bernadine Serio

Prayers for the sick: Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, Isabel Zamorano F, Kolotita Gae'e, Fr Frank Whitaker ,Tovio Fa'l, 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.stfrancisoahariu.nz>

Prayer Vigil for Peace



In response to Pope Leo and the New Zealand bishops' call to pray for peace, our parish held a Prayer Vigil for Peace on Sunday 12 April.

Thank you to all who organised and attended this meaningful time of prayer, as we gathered in unity to entrust our world to God and pray for peace among all nations.



ANZAC Day Remembrance and PEACE Service 2pm St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church : Saturday 25 April 2026

All parishioners, families and friends are invited to this Service where we will pray for PEACE and UNITY in our world. We will be joined by our brothers and sisters from the Turkish community who help organise this Service. It will be followed by afternoon tea and ANZAC biscuits. For more information or to assist call **Kitty McKinley : 021491459**.



Malvina Major Anointing Mass: Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Reflection Room - Chapel.

Retreat Days and Themes at Pā Maria 2026

Take time and space for a guided day of prayer and reflection. **Saturday, 2 May at 9.00am - 3.15pm.** Theme: **Easter.** A day of prayer to enter into the spirit of Easter. Please bring your own lunch. Entry by koha.

RSVP by 28 April to pamariabookings@gmail.com

Other Prayer days at Pā Maria during the year :

27 June : Peace , 19 September : Season of Creation

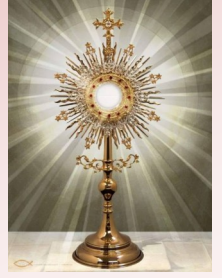
17 October : Mary , 5 December : Advent

Presenters: Neil Vaney SM, Chris Skinner SM and Judith Moroney rsm. RSVP by the Tuesday before the prayer day and indicate which prayer day you wish to attend.

Children's Liturgy: No children's liturgy 19th April and during school holiday/public holiday. The 1st session for the 2nd term will be on **Sunday, 3rd May 2026.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament / Holy Hour at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

You are warmly invited to join us each **Wednesday at 7:00pm** for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Holy Hour). Come and spend a peaceful hour in the presence of the Lord, an opportunity for quiet prayer, reflection, and rest. All are very welcome.



Year of St Francis – Retreat in Daily Life

As part of the Year of St Francis, our Parish is planning a "Retreat in Daily Life" from **17–22 May 2026, with Fr Chris Skinner, Sr Judith Moroney, Msgr Gerard Burns** and others. Further details will be shared once arrangements are finalised.

Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission

The Archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission has released a position paper on Palestine, drawing on the Holy See, recent popes, and Christian voices in the Holy Land. It supports Aotearoa New Zealand recognising Palestine as a state as a step toward justice, accountability, and a lasting peace for all in the Holy Land. The full statement can be read at:

https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/wellington-archdiocesan-catholic-commission-for-ecology-justice-and-peace-position-on-palestine/ For more information contact Deirdre Meskill : d.meskill@cadw.nz

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

Quote :

'Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer, our limited human possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God. Thoughts, words and deeds then break the demonic cycle of evil and are placed at the service of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom in which there is no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness... Prayer calls us all to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day — in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities.'

Pope Leo XIV, Homily, Vigil for Peace, 11 April 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**

