



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Where heaven and earth come together

Fourth Sunday of Easter – 26 April 2026, Year A
Readings: Acts 2:14.36-41; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 1:1-10

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

Holy Hour /Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament : Every
Wednesdays 7.00 pm

Important Dates

25 April 2026

Anzac Day Service 2.00 pm

2 May 2026

Parish Youth Group Consulta-
tion Workshop at 2.00 pm

13 May 2026

Parish Property Consultation
Workshop after 11 am Mass

Reflection

Influenza or influencer? The (he)art of persuasion.

We often look up to our celebrities or social media influencers in this modern world. But more often than not, most influencers are persuading followers to 'do what they do'. Whether it's the fads of the 'ice-bucket' challenge, 'planking', or 'TikTok' videos, influencers create a circle of belonging around them through persuasion of followers. They fulfil the deepest human fantasy: that even an ordinary person can be special and famous in front of a large audience.



Far too often we look at influencers as role models before assessing whether they are truly right in what they do. While some influencers make a positive difference to those whom they influence, others are more interested, through their popularity, in feeding their own need for fame, control, show or money. Coupled with AI algorithms that 'learn' what users like to engage with online, unhealthy influencers instead spread influenza upon those who follow them. When social media vigilance lapses, followers may be radicalised to believe in lies and detach from reality.

Peter was able to convert many to baptism not by denying the truth (as he denied Jesus three times) but asserting that God is love, through the many arguments that captivated not fantasies of fame, but hearts. Rather than drawing others closer for his self-interest, he was persuasive in drawing others to God.

When our agenda to persuade is converted from a love of self to love of others, greed and war cease. This ANZAC Weekend, we remember all of the soldiers who were sacrificed in war, driven often by the agendas of a few. But they demonstrate that even under the flawed human arguments of war, the human spirit of love for brothers and sisters displays the greatest influence human characters can have on others.

Fr Alfred Tong

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Piyasiri

Prayers for the sick: Vaeluaga Aspinall , Mrs. Theresa Peteli, Patricia Keane, 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, 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>

Joyfully Welcoming Our Newly Baptised

We warmly welcome Hunter Smith and Edmund Libot into our parish community, who were baptised on 19 April by Fr Alfred. We wish them and their families every blessing as they begin their journey of faith.



Late Night Mass: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington 8.00pm Friday, 1st May 2026 - We have our May Late Night Mass for Young People next week! It is a special Mass as the **Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Gábor Pintér**, will be celebrating Mass for us. All are welcome and please bring a plate to share.

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.



Planned Giving Envelopes & Tax Receipts

New planned giving envelopes will be available for collection in the church foyer on 25–26 April. Donation tax receipts will be available in May 2026. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Bel at the parish office: bel@stfrancisohariu.nz

Sacramental Programme 2026 – Enrol Now!

Enrolments are now open. See full details and download the application form from **our website here** or email: sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz
Enrolments close 1 July 2026.

Children's Liturgy: No children's liturgy 26 April. The 1st session for the 2nd term will be on **Sunday, 3rd May 2026.**

Parish Property Consultation Workshops

The Parish Property Committee invites parishioners to take part in consultation workshops to help shape the location and design of our future church. **A Youth Groups (age 18-30) Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, 2 May 2026 from 2:00–3:00 PM** in the Church Hall, for those involved in parish youth groups.

Parish Ministry Workshop will take place on **Wednesday, 13 May 2026 after the 11 am Mass**; please note this date has changed and we apologise for any inconvenience.

Please RSVP to pv@stfrancisohariu.nz with your name and the names of anyone attending. Everyone is welcome, and your views are important to us.

Listening to the Spirit - Retreat in Daily Life, May 17-22, 2026:

For the year of St Francis the parish is offering various opportunities for faith development. A retreat in daily life involves taking some time each day to pray with a biblical text or some aspect of your life and then gathering each day with fellow retreatants to share something of your prayer. The groups will be guided by experienced spiritual directors. If desired, a time for an individual direction session can also be sought. **Directors: Sr Judith Moroney RSM, Fr Chris Skinner SM Fr Gerard Burns.** Please indicate your interest as soon as possible so we can arrange times and meeting spaces. For more information contact the parish office: office@stfrancisohariu.nz

Te Awarua o Porirua Harbour Clean-Up :

Volunteers are needed for a harbour clean-up at Te Awarua o Porirua on Wednesday, 29 April 2026 (alternative rain date : 30 April). Kai will be provided, and we will meet at the harbourside. For more information visit: <https://www.ngaitoa.iwi.nz/events/te-awarua-o-parirua-clean-up>

Vocation Sunday Prayer:

On this Vocation Sunday, 26 April, we pray with thanksgiving for all our priests, religious, and seminarians in formation. May God bless and sustain them in their vocation. We pray too for our young people, that they may be open to God's call and respond to it with generosity.

Quote :

'The Rosary, like other ancient forms of prayer, has united us this evening in its steady rhythm built on repetition. Peace gains ground in the same way: word by word, deed by deed, just as a rock is hollowed out drop by drop, or fabric woven stitch by stitch. These are the slow rhythms of life, a sign of God's patience. We must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the pace of a world that does not know what it is chasing. Rather, we must return to serving the rhythm of life, the harmony of creation and healing its wounds.'

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**

