



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty Sixth Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 27 September 2026, Year A
Readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Phillippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

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**

Important Dates

26 - 27 September 2026

Suzanne Aubert Feast & Migrant
and Refugee Sunday

4 October 2026

Feast of St Francis of Assisi

4 October 2026

Suzanne Aubert National Centen-
nial Mass at SMOA : 2.00 pm

9/10 October 2026

Parish visit to Ngā Hau e Whā ma-
rae Papararangi,

Reflection

The second son who says 'I'll go Dad' but never sets foot in the vineyard embodies what Merton calls the False Self. The False Self is a mask built on social status, reputation, and looking righteous to others. Like the chief priests and elders, this son uses spiritual language to sustain an illusion of goodness while his inner heart remains completely detached from God's will.

The first Son and the True Self is the son who initially rebels but then 'changes his mind and went' represents the painful journey toward the True Self. The True Self is rooted in raw honesty before God. This son doesn't hide his flawed nature or initial reluctance; his eventual obedience flows from an authentic, internal shift rather than a desire to keep up appearances.

Institutional spiritual pride, and rigid religious structures can sometimes shield people from actual transformation. Jesus boldly declares that tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the kingdom first because they believed John the Baptist.

Paradoxically there exists: -

- The Danger of Polite Religion: Where the greatest barrier to God is often not open sin, but the self-satisfied illusion that we are already righteous.
- The Power of Vulnerability: Real spiritual life begins in the desert of admitting our own poverty. The outcasts in the parable knew they were broken, making them open to radical change, whereas the elders were too invested in their pious identity to repent.

Merton noted that the primary goal of the spiritual life is bringing our actual will into conformity with God's will. The parable of the two sons drives home this exact point. God does not care about holy words or initial compliance; He cares about actual fruit born in the vineyard. True faith is an action, not an agreement.

Peter Mulqueen

Quote :

'Jesus' parables describe the newness of what God has in store for us; yet they also reveal the resistance we generally offer to a more generous justice and greater love... God has different ways and fresh ideas even for those who consider themselves to be first and believe they have earned what they have, ... we all gain joy, wisdom and a better future when the law of love interrupts that of calculation, when the experience of mercy broadens that of merit, and when the gift of peace suspends rivalries and brings us closer together in gratitude.'

Pope Leo XIV Angelus 20 September 2026

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased :

Anniversary: Johan Hermon

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>

Suzanne Aubert National Centennial Mass : Join the Compassion Whānau for Mass celebrating 100 years since the passing of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, **Sunday 4 Oct, 2pm at St Mary of the Angels**. SFOA parish will mark this anniversary on 26/27 Sept as Oct 4 is our parish feast day and 800 years since the death of St Francis.

Parish Feast Day – 4 October : St Francis of Assisi

This is a jubilee year (800 years since his death) for St Francis of Assisi and our parish feast day. We have been marking his example in various ways this year including this weekend's Masses marking refugee and migrant Sunday and Suzanne Aubert.

Parish visit to Ngā Hau e Whā marae Papararangi, 9/10 Oct. A time to learn about things Māori and build connections. If you are interested or have not had the chance to visit a marae, please email the parish office, or speak to Fr Gerard. There is room for about 30 to stay overnight and opportunity to participate for either the Friday night or Saturday programmes.

Volunteer Needed!! Our Sacramental Programme team is looking for a volunteer to help lead children's sessions for 2027! If you'd like to support, please reach out to the team at : sacramentalprogramme@stfrancisohariu.nz

ADW Young Church Network Gathering

Calling all youth leaders, coordinators and those involved in Catholic youth across Wellington! Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, discussion and reflection on **Saturday 31 October, 12pm–4pm at St Joseph's Church**, Mt Victoria. Afternoon tea provided. Please bring your own lunch.

World Youth Day 2027 Information Evening. Join us on **Thursday, 1 October 2026, from 6:30–8:00pm** to learn more about WYD 2027 and the Wellington Pilgrimage. Venue: TBC (within the city). Information : s.kentjana@cadw.nz

Tindall Foundation Funding – Applications Open (Applications close Friday, 2 October 2026): Parish groups, Catholic agencies and related organisations can apply for funding supporting young families, essential needs, social cohesion, rangatahi and stronger communities. Information, applications: <https://cadw.nz/tindall/>

Joshua Catholic Men's Retreat : All men are welcome to this **Retreat on Saturday 10 Oct 2026, Home of Compassion, Island Bay, 8:30am - 5pm**. Theme: 'I am ready for anything anywhere' (Philip 4:12) led by Murray Adams, Ignatian Spiritual Director. Morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch provided. **Suggested koha \$25**. For more information: **Steve 027 356 9555** or joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Homestay Needed – 2027 Mandarin Language Assistant

A welcoming New Zealand family is sought to host our 2027 Mandarin Language Assistant from February to December 2027. Rent is \$350 per week, with a home ideally near the Johnsonville train line. Interested? Please contact: **Tania Savage** at principal@st-benedicts.school.nz



BAPTISMS on 19 & 20 September 2026: We warmly welcome into our parish community: **Ranaya Suthar, Ephraim Connor Percy & Grace Lily Percy** who were baptised by Fr. Alfred on Sat, 19 Sept and **Niha Diar, Ivaan Diar, Nikau Ramirez Talosaga & Katarina Margaretha Kalolo Ward** who were baptised by Fr. Gerard on Sunday 20 Sept.

From Liturgy Committee : The Liturgy Committee will occasionally share aspects of our weekend worship. Questions or clarifications can be sent through the parish office. **Silence:** You are encouraged to enjoy, respect and utilize the moments of silence during Mass. In our busy world, such moments are rare. 1 Kings 19 reminds us that God speaks to us in the silence, rather than in the noise of wind, earthquake or fire.

Late Night Mass: Come join us on **Friday, 2nd October People at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street at 8.00pm!** We invite all young people from across Wellington join us during Holy Mass. Please bring a plate to share for fellowship after and we are excited to see you there!

Season of Creation Lament: To close the 2026 Season of Creation, the EJP Commission Integral Ecology Committee invites you to reflect on the injustice of ongoing sewage discharge into the sea at **Rukutane Point Sewerage Outfall on Saturday, 3 October. Meet at 9.30am at South Beach Access car park, Titahi Bay, for a 20-minute coastal walk through Stuart Park**. Sturdy footwear and warm, weatherproof clothing are essential. **RSVP by 1 October to d.meskill@cadw.nz**.

Upcoming ONLINE Safeguarding Workshops: : **Monday, 28 Sept & 5 Oct (12noon-1.15pm)**. To register, email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.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/eftpos on the night

Harvest Festival Food Drive : Join Challenge 2000 on **Sunday, October 4, 1–4 PM at 23 Dr Taylor Terrace**. Bring canned or dried goods, toiletries, long-life milk or spreads to support local families. Enjoy a BBQ, games, prizes and raffles while giving back to our community!

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver Shared Spring Dinner – This fundraiser supports the missions and will be held on **Saturday, 10 October 2026 at 6.30pm at St. Anne's Hall, 22 Emmett Street, NEWTOWN**. Bring your favourite dish to share. **Admission : \$15; 6 to 12yrs: \$10; under 5yrs: Free**. Tickets & more information: peterclaverwgtn@gmail.com

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**

