



St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish

Te paepae o te paerangi ki te paewhenua

Where heaven and earth come together

Twenty Third Sunday in the Ordinary Time– 6 September 2026, Year A
Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

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: 10.00am Sunday Mass

Weekdays Mass Time

Tue : 10.30 am Sr. Cyprian's Oak
Jubilee Mass

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

1 Sept - 4 Oct 2026

Season of Creation

8 September 2026

Sr Cyprian's Oak Jubilee

13 September 2026

Sacrament of Confirmation at
2.00pm

Reflection

You belong to God! Nā te Atua anō koe!

In a fragmented, often divided, warring world, where change is frequent and sometimes sudden, we can wonder who and what we belong to. We can feel adrift. We can seek to 'belong' desperately to this or that group which seems to offer shelter, purpose.

And we can be led astray or find that what we thought was solid and healthy was not so. This Sunday, Social Justice Week 2026 begins. Over the next 3 years the theme will be around belonging: to God, to others, to Earth. This year it's about belonging to God. Nā te Atua anō koe!

We belong to God/Love Itself who created us/our universe; our existence comes out of that Great Love. God as loved us into being and written into us an invitation to return that love and share it with others. Psalm 139 sums this up beautifully, poetically: Lord you have searched me and know me....

Belonging to God gives us a base, a starting point, a place to stand.

Fr Gerard Burns

Quote :

This week's quote with an action for the first Sunday of the month and the first weekend of the Season of Creation, is from the Integral Ecology Committee of the Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission:

'Attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives. And to express bluntly that this is no longer a secondary or ideological question, but a drama that harms us all, the African Bishops stated that climate change makes manifest 'a tragic and striking example of structural sin'.

Pope Francis Laudate Deum #3.

Action: *Given the scripture readings today where can you, with persistence, call out the attacks on nature in your region?*

Remembering the Holy Souls

Recently Deceased : Maureen Hannah, Rose McErlain, Mary Carruthers ,Edwin Payad , Sr Pauline Leonard RNDM , Alison Barry, Jessie Hensen

Anniversary: Nellie Stowers , Leo and Nellie Mulqueen , Joan Prior, Peter Cross

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>



Sr Cyprian's Oak Jubilee — 80 Years of religious profession: You are warmly invited to join Sr Cyprian's Jubilee Mass on **Tuesday, 8 Sept at 10.30 am, celebrated by Cardinal John Dew.** We give thanks for the extraordinary milestone. Come and share in this joyful special celebration and honour Sr Cyprian's lifetime of faithful service. Morning tea will follow.

Sacramental Programme

Please pray for the children who will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 13 September 2026 at 2.00 pm, with Archbishop Paul.** May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them on their journey of faith.

Children's Liturgy: There will be **NO Children's Liturgy on 13 September 2026.** Children's Liturgy will be held on 6 and 20 September 2026. Thank you.

OCIA Programme

The OCIA Programme has begun. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming Catholic, we warmly invite you to get in touch with **Fr Alfred or Ning** at ocia@stfrancisohariu.nz by **Sunday, 20 September.** We look forward to welcoming you on this journey of faith.

Joshua Catholic Men's Evening & Retreat

Join the Joshua Men's Evening on **Thursday, 17 September at Connolly Hall, with a cuppa at 7:00pm and a 7:30pm start.** Theme: "Be Grateful for God's Forgiving Love."

Save the date for the **Men's 1-Day Retreat on Saturday, 10 October, 8:30am–4:45pm at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay.** For more information, contact **Steve Ready** on **027 356 9555** or joshua.wgtn@gmail.com.

Homestay Needed for 2027 Mandarin Language Assistant

We are seeking a welcoming New Zealand family to host our 2027 Mandarin Language Assistant, **arriving in late January 2027** to work at St Benedict's and St Brigid's Schools. The homestay is **from early February to early December, with rent of \$350 per week.** Ideally, the home will be within walking distance of the Johnsonville train line. Interested? Please contact **Tania Savage** at principal@st-benedicts.school.nz



IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

Are you a young adult searching for the meaning of life? We have an invitation for you! Join us and bring your mates along for a shared meal, an episode on a topic of faith, a chance to ask questions and share ideas.

All are welcome to attend. Join us for a **PROMO NIGHT** on **Tuesday 22 Sept, 7:00pm** in our church hall.

Celebrating Our Stories: The "Book of Life"

The Book of Life honours the blessings and faith journeys of our St. Francis of Assisi Parish family. Parishioners are invited to contribute by placing submissions in the church foyer box or emailing fionakearnz@gmail.com. It will be presented **on 26/27 September** during the Offertory Procession.



Suzanne Aubert Feast

We warmly invite our parish community to celebrate the Feast of Suzanne Aubert at our **Masses on 26 and 27 September.** This weekend will also mark **Migrant and Refugee Sunday**, as we pray for and stand in solidarity with migrants and refugees. More details will follow.

National Centennial Mass – Celebrate Compassion 2026

Join the Compassion Whānau for the National Centennial Mass celebrating 100 years since the passing of Venerable Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, on **Sunday, 4 October at 2:00pm, at St Mary of the Angels Church, 17 Boulcott Street, Wellington.** All are warmly invited.

Upcoming ONLINE Safeguarding Workshops: Join one of our online safeguarding workshops to learn how we, as a Church, are working together to keep everyone safe. Upcoming Workshops: **Monday 21 Sept (7.00pm – 8.15pm), Monday 28 Sept (12 noon – 1.15pm).** To register, email Kevin Plant at k.plant@cadw.nz

SEASON OF CREATION EVENT 2026:

Te Awa Kairangi Prayer Walk: **Sunday, 20th September, from Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt (8.00am), to Pito-one Fore-shore (5.45pm).** Join us for any stage, or at any of six gathering points along the way. An annual event for the Season of Creation. More details at:

www.facebook.com/groups/riverprayerwalk

St Brigid's School Mass

We'd love you to join us in the church for our syndicate Masses at 9.15 am on Tuesdays at St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Church: **22 Sept - Titipounamu (Year 0-3) Mass,**

Retreat Days and Themes at Pā Maria 2026

Take time and space for a guided day of prayer and reflection. Please bring your own lunch. Entry by koha.

Prayer days at Pā Maria during the year (9am–3.15pm):

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 to pamariabookings@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**

