



**Parish Priest:** Fr Ron Bennett 476 6131  
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**Parish Office:** Catherine Vernon, Maria Nunns, Justina Yong  
476 6131 office@otariparish.co.nz PO Box 17-011, Karori 6147  
Office open 8.00am—Midday  
Hall Bookings: Mira 022 498 0285

**Mass times:**

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm Karori  
Sunday: 8.30am Wilton and 10.00am Karori  
Weekdays: Tue-Fri 9.30am, Saturday 9.00am  
Reconciliation: Saturday 9.30—10.00am

**St Teresa's School,** Karori. Principal: Pip Cook  
939 1725

**Cardinal McKeefry School,** Wilton.  
Principal: Peter Hijazeen 475 3262

St Teresa 301 Karori Rd. Karori and St Thomas More 30 Worcester St, Wilton. Website [www.otariparish.co.nz](http://www.otariparish.co.nz)

**10th December 2023**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Year B**

**Liturgy of the Word:**

**Psalm Response:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**This week: 2nd Sunday of Advent:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11: Ps 84: 2 Pet 3:8-14: Mk 1:1-8:

**Next week: 3rd Sunday of Advent:** Is 61:1-2, 10-11: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54: 1 Thess 5:16-24:  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28:

## There is a Season...

Last Sunday we began a new church year, beginning with the Season of Advent. We are now in Year B, and the Gospel of Mark.

Mark's Gospel is often under-rated, compared with Matthew and Luke. It is considerably shorter than the others, and was even seen at one time as a abridged version of Matthew!



Nothing could be further than the truth. Mark is written earlier than Matthew and Luke and it shows! Mark mentions details that are eye witness accounts in a way that Matthew and Luke simply cannot. It is also true that both Matthew and Luke have access to Mark's Gospel, and make good use of it. Their own accounts would be severely depleted if it were not for Mark's influence on their own writings. Enjoy Mark this year. It is a beautiful gospel.

We are also in the Season of Advent – only 22 days this year. Advent is when we prepare for the great Feast of Christmas. It is an inner journey. There are many ways we can prepare. Even if you cannot get to daily Mass, you can always download the Mass readings and just reflect on them. I try to spend time by myself and be with the Lord. I think of Mary and what she must have been thinking as she carried Jesus in her womb, waiting for the time for him to be born. Can we not prepare ourselves in the same way!

This particular year is also a time for goodbyes and welcomes in our parish. Three of the four of us are leaving! Only Fr Tikoua is staying! I am going to Holy Cross Seminary as senior-priest-in-residence, Deacon Matt is going to the Catholic Parish of the Wairarapa as Assistant Deacon, and Pre-seminarian Quang Dong is going to Ohariu Parish.

We welcome Fr Joy Thottankara as Parish Priest. He is presently Assistant Priest at the Cathedral and is already part of our Pastoral Area. He will be a real gift to the parish. We also welcome pre-Seminarian Long Tran. Welcome to you both. The actual shifts will take place on 1 February 2024.

**God bless, Father Ron**



There will be a farewell lunch for Fr Ron on **Sunday 10th December starting 11.15am at St Teresas Hall.**  
**Please bring a plate to share.**

Fr Ron will still be around the parish until the end of January, but this is an opportunity to farewell him more formally when most people are not away on holiday.

#### RIP Sr Marie Therese Ranum SM



Sr Marie was a teacher at St Teresa's in 1966 and from 1982-1985. She was also involved in Parish visiting from 1997 to 2001. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

#### CHRISTMAS APPEAL BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR CHALLENGE 2000

Challenge 2000 are putting together 200 boxes for families they work with. Otari Parish JPD Group would like to support them and so we are asking you for your help. We have offered to give them 200 packets of chocolate biscuits and some gift cards for teenagers they work with. Suggestions would be - Rebel Sports, Movie Cards, The Warehouse, K-Mart.

There will be boxes at the back of the church over the next 3 Sundays for your donations.

#### 2nd Sunday of Advent

*"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3*

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives.

Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too.

We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

How are you helping others get to Heaven?



*'At times the yearning we feel toward the Lord is too weak and it almost seems that God is silent... Think about God's tenderness. God is not a bad father, an unkind father, no. He is tender. He loves us so much, like the Good Shepherd, who searches for the last member of his flock. It is love, and this is conversion: a grace of God. Begin to walk, because it is he who moves you to walk, and you will see how he will arrive. Pray, walk, and you will always take a step forward.'*

Pope Francis [Angelus](#) 6 December 2020

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has called for a ceasefire and for sufficient humanitarian supplies to be allowed into Gaza to help vulnerable people caught up in the conflict. Prayers have been published on the Caritas Facebook page and website. Caritas is also receiving donations through its website:

<https://www.caritas.org.nz/where-we-work/holy-land>



The Catholic Agency for Justice,  
Peace & Development



#### Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every Saturday evening  
from 5pm

before the 5.30pm

Vigil Mass,

St Teresa's Church, Karori.

**ALL WELCOME!**



#### Parish Christians Meditation Group

Every Thursday 10am (after the 9.30am Mass)

**All Welcome.**

## Please join us at St Thomas More Church Christmas Eve Family Mass Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 7pm

Traditionally the Christmas Eve Family Mass at St Thomas More features a Christmas Nativity Play.

If your child/grandchild, neighbour's child, friend's child.... would like to be involved please add their name to the sign-up sheet in St Thomas More Church foyer or email Estelle:

[ev.henrys@gmail.com](mailto:ev.henrys@gmail.com)

No acting experience necessary – all ages and stages welcome.

**Note:** There will be one practice at St Thomas More Church at 10.00am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It is hoped that children who wish to participate can attend the practice.



*Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers and follow the proceedings in Dubai.*

**PRAYER DURING ADVENT FOR OUR COMMON HOME** (Supplied by The Laudato Si' Movement)

**Dear God, our Creator,**

You revealed your love to us and Creation once for all through the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. By the grace of Your Creator Spirit, teach us to celebrate our faith in the Incarnation that took place in Creation.

Dear Jesus, Savior of Creation, we ask that You may be born in us, once again, as we seek to cultivate hope for our common home. As Your followers, teach us to care for the dignity of all human beings and all Creation, now and in the future.

We pray for today's victims of global warming, both human and nonhuman. We pray for more ambition in the energy transition, in this country and globally.

We pray for our governments, and especially for those at COP28, to negotiate a global and fair phase-out of fossil fuels.

And, finally, we pray for the courage to be prophets of our time, calling upon our leaders to bear fruits of ecological justice after COP28.

Come Emmanuel! Make us ever more hopeful people for a hopeful planet. Let us be part of Your light of hope to the world.

**Amen.**

### Columban Calendars:

The calendars will be available for sale after Masses this weekend at St Teresas for \$12. Please bring correct change.

The calendars are also available from the parish office every Tuesday-Friday morning.



### Healing Service

Fr John Rea will conduct a Healing Service on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at the North Porirua Baptist Church 69 f Discovery Place Whitby at 7.30 pm in the downstairs meeting room. All are welcome.

Bring all those who need Jesus' healing.

*Please pray for all the recently deceased and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.*



Readings

11-16

December  
2023

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10: Ps 84: Lk 5:17-26:

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11: Ps 95: Mt 18:12-14:

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31: Ps 102: Mt 11:28-30:

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20: Ps 144: Mt 11:11-15:

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19: Ps 1: Mt 11:16-19:

**Saturday:** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11: Ps 79: Mt 17:10-13:





A big thank you to ALL our  
Volunteers!

Here are some of our volunteers enjoying the thankyou brunch  
hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council last Saturday.



# SIMBANG GABI 2023

7:00 PM @ St Teresas Church, Karori

Dec 15, Friday  
Fr Patrick Bridgman

Dec 19, Tuesday  
Msgr Gerard Burns

Dec 16, Saturday  
Fr Kevin Mowbray

Dec 20, Wednesday  
Archbishop Paul Martin

Dec 17, Sunday  
Fr Dennis Nacorda

Dec 21, Thursday  
Fr Joy Thottankara

Dec 18, Monday  
Fr Tikoua Kautu

Dec 22, Friday  
Fr Marlon Maylon

Dec 23, Saturday  
Fr Ron Bennett



## Christmas and Holiday Mass Times 2023/2024

Please note: The Schedule for Mass Times over  
this time period is available on our Website:

<https://otariparish.co.nz>