



**Parish Priest:** Fr Joy Raphael 476 6131 or 027 312 1869 frjoy@otariparish.co.nz

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PO Box 17-011, Karori 6147  
Office open 9.00am—Midday Tuesday to Friday  
Hall Bookings: Mira 022 682 5600

**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

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

12th July 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

## Cultivate a heart for God's Word

Today at Mass Father Cirilo reminded us all that the Kingdom of God is not just close at hand—but actually exists here now in our hearts!

The parable of the Sower illustrates how different responses to Jesus' message reflect the condition of our hearts. When I reflect on this I can at times feel rather down about the place in the journey where I am at and how difficult it is to really embrace and grow the seed of love God has placed in me.

It seems that it is the closest relationships that are often the most difficult—perhaps because we think that loving someone, who also loves us, should be easy?

A friend sent me a reflection on the Parable of the Sower by Gerard Robert to help me write this piece in the Newsletter. What really struck a cord with me is that the author took a different perspective, imagining we are the **seed and the Sower** and that we needed three things to survive and thrive, providing that for others so that the Kingdom of God can grow in them.

If what we need to grow ourselves is: '**sun as God shining His bright light on the path we should walk, the water as the Word of God that fills us with the spirit, hope and love, and the soil which gives us nutrients as our community supporting us and giving us the space to grow**' then we have a responsibility to plant ourselves in communities and situations that allow for God's life and love to shine in and through us.

**Christian hope** is the essential element that keeps us going when times get tough. Perhaps we are in a place of stoney ground or dark skies and the kernal of God's Kingdom seems to be withering not thriving—God's Grace is there to help us change—our relationships, our communities and most importantly ourselves.

Our ability to help others by being their light, water and soil, exponentially grows God's Kingdom and is the guarantee of our Salvation.

*Maria Nunns* (Parish Office Administrator)



## Liturgy of the Word

**This week: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Is 55:10-11: Ps 64: Rom 8:18-23: Mt 13:1-23:

**Psalm Response:** *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

**Next Week: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Wis 12:13, 16-19: Ps 85: Rom 8:26-27: Mt 13:24-43

## Upcoming Parish Events



### Friday 17 July 6 pm, St Thomas More Church

Near the close of the Season of Matariki, there will be a Memorial Liturgy to remember and give thanks for those from our Parish who have died. This will be followed by a Potluck Dinner/BYO Drinks. Tea and coffee will be provided. **All are welcome.**

#### OTARI PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Join us for our next meeting on  
Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July  
11:30am - 1pm  
in St. Teresa's Parish Hall.

Come along for food, faith and fun!

Please call Amanda Kleiner on  
027-315-8503 for more details.



#### Ōtari Parish Young Adults Group

Change of frequency!  
Mark your diaries!  
The group will meet every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.  
Our next meeting will be held on Sunday 19th July at 11:15am at St Teresa's Church. Members expect a WhatsApp notification. Contact Treena [bob\\_brucie@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_brucie@hotmail.com) for further details.



### Ngā mihi o te Tau Hou – Happy New Year

#### Matariki Blessing

*Christine Kelly 3 June 2019*

May the waters that flow through us  
bless us; the earth in her bounty  
invite us to share.

May the storms that engulf us,  
serve to gentle and humble us;  
make us wise.

May our dead in the heavens  
precious as light beyond darkness;  
remember and mind us.

May newness of season;  
stars gathered as sign –  
warm us and wake us  
name our truth in the stars.

### Ōtari Parish 'Prayer of the Faithful' Writers Needed

Prayer of the Faithful (POF), also called Prayers of Intercession, are written each week for Ōtari Parish Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. Writing the prayers involves reading and reflecting on the scripture for the Sunday Mass. There are resources and websites to help and Formation will be offered at a date to be advised. If you feel this is something you would like to do, we would be pleased to welcome you to our dedicated POF team. Please contact Audrey via email: [audvic2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:audvic2@xtra.co.nz) by 15 July 26.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament is from 8:30am and Holy Eucharist at 9:30am on weekdays (Except Monday) in the Chapel.

On the first Friday of each month, Adoration will resume after the 9:30am Mass, through out the day, and conclude at 6.30pm with Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

**All welcome.**



## Parish and Archdiocesan Events



### Movie Fundraiser for the Refugee Family Reunification Trust (RFRT) Ōtari Parish Justice Peace and

Development Group would like to thank everyone who supported the movie fundraiser. 100 people enjoyed 'The Christophers' last Sunday on a mid-winters afternoon. Ticket sales, along with donations raised \$2,015 for the Refugee Family Reunification Trust (RFRT). The Trust truly appreciate the sustained and valuable commitment to helping refugees shown by Ōtari Parish. This was the ninth movie fundraiser the JPD Group have run for the RFRT - having raised a total of just over \$25,500 toward helping unite family members here in New Zealand. A very impressive effort!

### Retreat Days and themes at Pā Maria 2026

*Take time and space for a guided day of prayer and reflection.*

Prayer days at Pā Maria during the year. 9.00am-3.15pm

- **19 September**      **Season of Creation**
- **17 October**        **Mary**
- **5 December**       **Advent**

Presenters: Neil Vaney SM, Chris Skinner SM and Judith Moroney rsm.

Pā Maria. 78 Hobson St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Entry by koha.

Maximum of 20 people so please **RSVP by the Tuesday before the prayer day** to [pamariabookings@gmail.com](mailto:pamariabookings@gmail.com) and indicate which prayer day you wish to attend.

Join other men for a quiz on Matthew's gospel (chapters 15 to 28) and a reflection, this coming Thursday 16th July 2026 at



Joshua from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral). Reflection on theme "The Lord hears your cry": Peter Woods  
Want to know more?  
Ring David Monastra 027-4477 280  
email: [joshua.wgtn@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.wgtn@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Online Safeguarding Workshops:

Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. Whether you are involved directly in Parish Ministry or not, enrol to attend an Online Safeguarding Workshop to learn about the actions we, as a Church, are taking to keep each other safe.

Monday the 20th of July 7-8.15pm  
Tuesday the 28th of July 7-8.15pm

Register with Kevin Plant by emailing: [k.plant@cadw.nz](mailto:k.plant@cadw.nz) The Microsoft Teams link to join the workshop will be sent out two days prior to the Workshop. See church noticeboard for full list of workshop dates for July - September.

#### Readings

13-18

July

2026

**Mon:** Is 1:10-17: Ps 49: Mt 10:34-11:1:  
**Tues:** Is 7:1-9: Ps 47: Mt 11:20-24:  
**Wed:** Is 10:5-7, 13-16: Ps 93: Mt 11:25-27:  
**Thurs:** Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19: Ps 101: Mt 11:28-30:  
**Friday:** Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8: Is 38: Mt 12:1-8:  
**Sat:** Micah 2:1-5: Ps 9B Mt 12:14-21:



### Prayer Request

*Please pray for our parishioners who are unwell. For those who passed away recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.*

## Valuing our Senior Parishioners



On behalf of Ōtari Parish we would like to thank Tapuni Alefosio for her exquisite floral displays and her faithful service over the many years, across various ministries.



## St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order, Patron of Italy

### Embracing “Lady Poverty”

The uncontainable joy unleashed by feeling loved and called by God helped strengthen the wish of young Francis to live by Providence, and in observance of the Gospel, he decided to give away all he had to the poor. At this point the distance between him and his father, Pietro Di Bernardone, became irreparable. His father denounced him publicly during an audience with Bishop Guido. Francis declared his deep desire to marry “Lady Poverty”, and he removed his clothes as a way of renouncing his father’s wealth.

### The first community of friars. The Pope approves the Rule.

Francis gathered with his numerous companions, who shared his desire to live the Gospel to the letter in poverty, chastity and obedience. In 1209 the first group of brothers gathered in Rome to meet Pope Innocent III who, struck by “that short and thin young man with burning eyes”, approved the Rule, later confirmed definitely in 1223 by Honorius III.

### The Poor Clares and the Third Order

The charism of Francis also attracted Clare, a noblewoman from Assisi. Francis welcomed her and gave origin to the second Franciscan order, “The Poor Clares”. Later he founded the third order for lay people.

(More to come ...)

Excerpt from [St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order, Patron of Italy - Information on the Saint of the Day - Vatican News](#)