



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

Parish Office: Catherine Vernon, Maria Nunns, Justina Yong 476 6131 office@otariparish.co.nz
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

30th August 26

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

The readings this Sunday speak of discipleship, transformation, and faithfulness in times of change and are fitting as we celebrate this Thanksgiving and Farewell Mass at St Thomas More (STM) Church. Opened in early 1969 by Cardinal McKeefry, for fifty-seven years STM has been much more than a building for our community. It has been our *tūrangawaewae*, our place of belonging. Here friendships were formed, children baptised, couples married, loved ones farewelled, and faith was nurtured. Here Children's Masses, Children's Liturgy of the Word and the Sacraments Programmes supported our young families. Here we discovered that the Church is people.

One of the great gifts of STM has been its close-knit community. With a congregation of its size, parishioners were known by name and participation was expected, not left to others. Pastoral care was personal and the bonds of friendship became the foundation for our mission. That mission reached beyond the walls. Through outreach, social justice initiatives, support for refugees, care for creation, bicultural dialogue, ecumenical events, and countless acts of service, we sought to live the Gospel in practical ways. We learned that faith is not something we keep to ourselves; faith sends us out.

This weekend we give thanks for all that has been. On Saturday is the Open Day 11am – 5pm. At 3pm there will be a time for sharing memories and storytelling. A display in the Lounge will celebrate the history, the people and activities over the years. All are welcome to come along (see the back page of the newsletter for more details.) We also acknowledge the sadness of farewell to our beautiful *whare karakia*. In the words of Hēnare Walmsley "Kare e wareware te taonga nei a mātou (We will not forget this precious taonga). Jeremiah in the first reading reminds us that God's fire cannot be extinguished. What has been formed here does not end on 30th August. The building closes, but the Spirit that shaped this dedicated community remains alive in us. As we leave this place, may we carry forward its gifts of participation, communion, and mission, trusting that God's kingdom continues to grow through presence.



Stuart and Estelle Henrys (STM Parishioners since 1992)

Upcoming Parish Events

Valuing our Senior Parishioners



Our heartfelt apologies to Gemma and family for the distress caused by posting incorrect in last week's newsletter. On behalf of Ōtari Parish we would like to thank Gemma Pereira and her late husband Rom Pereira for their faithful ministries and active participation within our parish over the years.

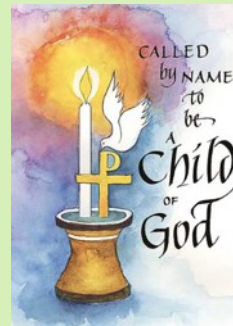
Ōtari Parish Sacramental Programme

Enrolments are now open for this year's Sacramental Programme commencing in November 2026.

The Ōtari Parish Sacramental Programme is for baptised children aged 8 and over to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Holy Eucharist.

Please see the noticeboard for more information or go to our website

otariparish.co.nz



Congratulations to Rovinaka Pathriana who will be baptised into God's family this Sunday morning at our 10am Mass. May God's love and grace bless him and protect him on his Baptism day and all the days of his life.

Readings

31st
August
4th
September

2026

Mon: 1 Cor 5:1-8: Ps 5: Lk 6:6-11:
Tues: Micah 5:1-4: Ps 12: Mt 1:1-16, 18-23:
Wed: 1 Cor 7:25-31: Ps 44: Lk 6:20-26:
Thurs: 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13: Ps 138: Lk 6:27-38:
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27: Ps 83: Lk 6:39-42:
Sat: 1 Cor 10:14-22: Ps 115: Lk 6:43-49:

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 NO 6.30PM MASS FRIDAY THE 4TH OF SEPTEMBER
All are welcome.



Parish and Archdiocesan Events

Attention Weekday Mass Goers!

There will be NO EVENING MASS on Friday, 4th September 2026 (our youth are singing at the Late Night Mass 8pm at the

Cathedral) and

NO MORNING MASS on Saturday, 5th September 2026 on account of the priestly ordination of Deacon Emilio at 11.00am at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

All are welcome to attend the Priestly Ordination.

NO VEHICLE MOVEMENTS PLEASE!

On school days, **between 8.30am and 8.55am**. Kindly do NOT park in **VISITOR parking** slots during school hours.

Let us keep our children safe!

Living Wage Election Forum 6pm for 6:30pm start, 2 September, Naenae College, Lower Hutt



'The Living Wage is the income necessary to provide workers and their families with the basic necessities of life.' Join the Ōtari Parish Justice Peace and Development Group along with Archdiocesan members of the EJP Commission and St Joseph's/ St Mary of the Angels. Register on the sign-up sheet in both St Teresa's and St Thomas More foyers.

Transport to the event is being organised from both church carparks and there is a chartered bus going from St Josephs Church that will also stop outside Sacred Heart Cathedral. A donation of \$5 towards petrol would be appreciated. Please contact Bernadine Reid cjb.reid@xtra.co.nz for more information.



Save this date – Saturday 10th October 2026, 9:00am to 4:45pm, Home of

Compassion, Island Bay – for men's retreat organised by Joshua Wellington.

Theme: "I am ready for anything anywhere"

Retreat leader: Murray Adams, a member of the 'Association of Christian Spiritual Directors in New Zealand; specialises in Ignatian spirituality

Want to know more? Text or call Steve Ready 027 356 9555

Parishioners, please be aware there have been numerous phishing emails being sent to parish offices and parishioners in the Archdiocese from local priests asking for information or money. Please check the addresses of emails from priests. For your information, Fr Joy's email is frjoy@otariparish.co.nz



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.

Liturgy of the Word

This week: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jer 20:7-9: Ps 62: Rom 12:1-2: Mt 16:21-27

Psalm Response: *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

Next Week: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Ezek 33:7-9: Ps 94: Rom 13:8: Mt 18:15-20:

These beautiful paintings by a Ukrainian artist, were commissioned by Deacon Philip's Parish in Luxembourg as a gift to the Catholic parish of Otari. Our sincere GRATITUDE to the artist, the parishioners of Luxembourg and Deacon Philip and his family for their generosity. God's Blessings!



St Thomas More Thanksgiving and Farewell Weekend

Saturday, 29 August 2026, 11am until approximately 5pm

All are invited to the church for some quiet reflection time. There will be tea and coffee available in the lounge and a chance for a casual chat while you look at the photos and memorabilia display. From 3pm, there will be an organised opportunity to share and listen to stories. Anyone is most welcome to speak.

Sunday, 30 August, 4pm – Final Mass led by Archbishop Paul Martin

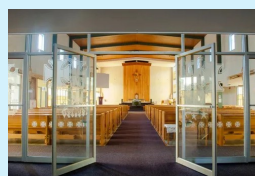
The Mass will be followed by light refreshments.

Parking: Reserved parking on the South side of the Church will be for Disabled and the Archbishop and the North Side of the Church reserved for the Caterers. We would like to offer the Main Parking Area to the elderly. Parking will be available at Altum Academy School (previously Cardinal McKeefry School) for those able to walk the distance up to the church.

Mass Times Reminder for 29th & 30th August



St Thomas More
Sunday 4pm Thanksgiving and
Farewell Mass



St Teresa's Church
Saturday 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 10am Mass