



ŌTARI PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Conformed at the meeting on 19 October 2026

Date and time – 7pm, Monday 21st September 2026

Venue - St Teresa's Church Presbytery

1. Opening prayer and welcome – Chair – Chris Orsman
2. Confirm note taker – Peter Wood
3. Apologies and confirmation of the last meeting minutes (apology received – Des Tiller) – Minutes - Moved Chris / Adri – Agreed with amendments
4. Outstanding actions – see table below
5. Events for late September and October
 - a. 27 Sep – St Teresa's Feast Day (Archbishop Paul Chief Celebrant) and – bring a plate shared lunch
 - b. 1/8/15 Oct - *Let the Beads do the Talking* 6.30-7pm (supper before)
 - c. Sun 4 Oct – Feast of St Francis of Assisi (Cardinal Dew Chief Celebrant) and bring a plate lunch
 - d. 22-31 Oct - Rosary each day 6.30pm
 - e. Sat 31 Oct – working Bee at Karori Cemetery Priests Section
 - f. Sun 1 Nov (All Saints Day) Blessing of Catholic Section Makara Cemetery after 10am Mass
 - g. Mon 2 Nov 5.30pm - Blessing of Priest Section Karori Cemetery before 6.30pm Mass – noi morning Mass
6. Update from the St Thomas More Transition Group – Peter – refer attachment
7. Update from the building committee – Chris

Not met in 2 months - to meet Monday 28th and receive update from quantity surveyor and move from theoretical stage to practical stage.
8. Revised Parish Prayer – Patricia – discussed and further iteration for October meeting
9. Confirm action points from meeting
10. Date of next meeting – 19 October 2026.

Distribution

Fr Joy Thottankara	Fr Cirilo Barlis	Adri Widyanto
Amanda Russell-Kleiner	Chris Orsman	Des Tiller
Myrna Umali	Falakiko Tu'amoheloa	Neville Braganza
Patricia Lynch	Peter Wood	
Benny Tau'Alupe	Catherine Vernon	Otari Parish Office

PPC Open Actions

No	Item	Action	Owner	Status
52	Draft Parish Plan	Some updates, new info., small statements, from Family Group etc. Peter suggested putting something about STM closure under Stewardship. Add PPC and FC to Stewardship list. Put OCIA under Faith Formation banner. Des to contact Chris Duthie-Jung to help lift the plan to the level needed in alignment with Archdiocese for consistency. To be done after 30 August and the closure of St. Thomas More.	TBC	On hold
60	Volunteer recruitment at the end of mass	Ongoing - everyone to actively promote the Ministries within Ōtari Parish.	All	Volunteers coming through from STM with representation on the Liturgy team; new members being added to the Finance Committee.
62	Disposal of assets of STM	Report generated by STM committee to be reviewed by the Liturgy Committee, FC and Fr. Joy.	Fr. Joy	Ongoing
64	Parish Prayer	Revision of parish prayer during our ongoing transition	Patricia	Being revised for Oct meeting
67	JPD Group	Check with Ethne to confirm lead and membership update	Amanda	
68	Faith Formation Team and other Groups	Membership drive	All	recruitment weekend – early Nov
69	Parishioner transport needs	Notice in newsletter to contact the office and organise pickups	Office	ongoing

The Transition Group update to Ōtari Parish Council (PPC), and Ōtari Parish Finance Committee (FC),

The Transition Group (TG) was given the remit to support the pastoral, orderly, and respectful transition and closure of St Thomas More Church, with particular attention to people, communication, and practical coordination. To this end, we planned and implemented three significant activities:

- **A Memorial Liturgy** to remember and give thanks for those from the St Thomas More community who have died, followed by a community potluck dinner (Friday, 17 July 2026).
- **An Open Day and Story-Sharing Afternoon** that brought together people from across the history of the St Thomas More community. A themed display of photos and memorabilia in the lounge generated great interest, prompting many conversations, memories and renewed connections (Saturday, 29 August 2026).
- **The Final Mass** (30 August 2026) celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin. This solemn occasion of thanksgiving was attended by more than 150 people and was followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Consultation, communication and community involvement underpinned all of these carefully planned events. Notices of the events were circulated widely beyond Ōtari Parish, and historical records were researched to identify and invite former clergy, parishioners and relatives of deceased parishioners. Members of St Thomas More community contributed at every level from organising parking and hospitality to undertaking liturgical ministries during the final Mass.

Many moving reflections and messages have been recorded in the Remembrance Book. We would particularly like to acknowledge Estelle Henrys whose attention to detail and care for people contributed greatly to the success of these events. We also acknowledge Stuart Henrys for compiling a visual memories book to preserve the story, history and legacy of St Thomas More's Church.

The TG thanks the PPC and the FC for their support and encouragement throughout this process. While this has been a time of sadness and change, it has also been a time of remembrance, reconnections, gratitude, and celebration of the rich legacy of the St Thomas More Community.

The TG has now completed its work.

Together in faith

The Transition Group: Carolyn Tait, Stuart Henrys, Estelle Henrys, Kylie Hall, Peter Wood, and Fr Joy Raphal.

Note Taker Roster – 2026

PPC Meeting	Note Taker	Notes
26 January	Myrna	PPC Chair is responsible for producing the agenda and meeting pack. Volunteers: Adri, Amanda, Chris, Kiko, Myrna, Neville, Patricia and Peter.
23 February	Amanda	
16 March	Chris	
29 April (combined)	Catherine	
25 May	Peter	
14 June (AGM)	Treena Tiller	
22 June	Adri	
20 July	Patricia	
24 August		
21 September		
19 October		
23 November		
14 December (combined)	Catherine	