



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

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

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 301 Karori Rd. Karori and St Thomas More 30 Worcester St, Wilton. Website www.otariparish.co.nz

23 August 26

21 Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Today's Gospel from Matthew 16:13–20 asks us to reflect on Jesus' question to Peter: "Who do you say I am?" Peter answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This question is also addressed to each of us: Who is Jesus to me? In my own life, I believe Jesus is the Son of the living God—my source of hope, strength and faith. I am reminded that it is not enough to simply know about Jesus; I am called to know Him personally and grow in my relationship with Him.



In Romans 11:33–36, St Paul reminds us of the greatness and wisdom of God: "From him and through him and for him are all things." When I reflect on my own life, I recognise that my life, family, relationships, opportunities and blessings are all gifts from God. It is easy to focus on what I have achieved through my own efforts, but Scripture reminds me to remain humble and grateful. I am called to use God's gifts wisely, share them generously, and give glory to God in all that I do.

With Isaiah's reading we are reminded that the responsibilities and authority entrusted to us are gifts from God. Eliakim is chosen and given responsibility, reminding us that leadership is not about status or power, but about faithfulness, service and responsibility. In my own life, I am reminded to be faithful with the people, relationships and responsibilities God has entrusted to me. May I use these gifts wisely and serve others with humility, always seeking to do God's will.

Neville Braganza, PPC Member

Liturgy of the Word

This week: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 22:19-23: Ps 137: Rom 11:33-36: Mt 16:13-20

Psalm Response: *Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.*

Next Week: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jer 20:7-9: Ps 62: Rom 12:1-2: Mt 16:21-27

Upcoming Parish Events

In loving memory of Fr Pene Pateleho



Fr Pene was originally a deacon here in the parish and celebrated his first thanksgiving Mass at St Teresas. We thank him for his ministry within the Archdiocese and may his soul rest in peace.

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@extra.co.nz for more information.

Preference Certificates

PARISHIONERS who require a Preference Certificate for their child to enter our Primary or Secondary Catholic Schools can visit Father Joy between 10.30am till Midday on Wednesdays or Thursdays without making an prior appointment.



This Sunday 22nd August 2026

Come along to our **10am**

Children's Mass at St Teresa's Church.

Children and their families are encouraged to sit in the front pews.

There will be child friendly hymns, Gospel and homily. The Tongan Choir will lead the singing.

Please join us!

Readings

24-29 August

2026

Mon: Rev 21:9-14: Ps 144: Jn 1:45-51:

Tues: 2 Thess 2:1-3, 14-17: Ps 95: Mt 23:23-26:

Wed: 2 Thess 3:6-10, 16-18: Ps 127: Mt 23:27-32:

Thurs: 1 Cor 1:1-9: Ps 144: Mt 24:42-51:

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25: Ps 32: Mt 25:1-13:

Sat: Jer 1:17-19: Ps 70: Mk 6:17-29:

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 are welcome.



Parish and Archdiocesan Events

Thank you!



We feel incredibly blessed and grateful to our wonderful Ōtari Parish community. Knowing that so many of you were keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, meant so much to us and gave us great strength over the past few weeks. Des is now out of hospital and slowly recovering at home.

We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the amazing healthcare teams at Wellington Hospital. It was comforting and reassuring seeing the familiar faces of Lavinia and Sia, nurses from our parish community. We know many of our parishioners work at the hospital and appreciate the challenges they face with the demands of our current healthcare system. Thank you all for your professionalism, skill, compassion and genuine care.

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. May God bless you.

Des and Treena

Do you know someone who is looking for answers about life and the world we live in?

A new little book called *"Can the Catholic Church Answer My Questions?"* provides an easy-going 'chat' on searching for God, some of the questions people have about Catholic beliefs, and ending with an explanation of the process for becoming Catholic.

It makes suggestions for podcasts, articles and books that can draw the reader further into the Catholic experience ... and the meaning of love, life and everything!

Available now from [Pleroma](#) for \$35.

Author Margaret Bearsley is a Launch Out Graduate, and this book was written as her final pastoral project. Profits from the sale will be donated to the Wellington Archdiocese.

JOSHUA

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

**ROOM IN
YOUR HOME FOR
ONE MORE?**

Do you have a
passion to make
a difference in the
lives of children and
young people?
**Consider becoming
a Foster Parent.**

Contact: Rachel Kleinjan
Foster Parent Recruiter
Rachel.Kleinjan@ohf.org.nz
027 486 5904

www.ohf.org.nz A Christian Community Response

For more information

<https://upload.ohf.org.nz/link/J3vtFgLMQZ7kJjCJGvoGLu>



Prayer Request

Please pray for our
parishioners who are unwell.
For Aylene Morales who passed
away on the 16th of August and
for those whose
anniversaries occur about
this time.

Valuing our Senior Parishioners



On behalf of Ōtari Parish we would like to thank Gemma and Adrian Pereria for their faithful ministry and active participation within our parish.

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