



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: 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's Church 301 Karori Rd. Karori www.otariparish.co.nz

27th September 26 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

St Thérèse of Lisieux Feast Day

"It's not fair!" words that ring out from children all too often.

What is fair? What is just? Who decides?

Restorative justice and repentance are the themes of our Sunday readings.

In the first reading from Prophet Ezekiel, God is responding to accusations that he is being unfair. We are being reminded that we are all sinners. Through repentance and penance we can receive God's mercy.

We seek forgiveness, compassion, understanding, and guidance as we ask for God's mercy in singing the responsorial psalm.

As St Paul continues to preach to the Philippians, he challenges the people to be united in being Christlike, to humble themselves, to be of service to others. There is no place for jealousy, greed, pride or status, we must be "**JOY**-ful" people; placing first **J**esus, **O**thers then **Y**ourself.

Gospel acclamation reinforces the messages of the readings: Follow God. God promises those who humble themselves will be rewarded in heaven.

How hard it must have been for the chief priests and elders to listen to Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. They held important positions in society, considering themselves righteous and deserving of a place in heaven. Jesus shares a story to teach them that we must act with integrity, and do what is right, not be blinded by status. The tax collectors and prostitutes being exposed to the truth, changed their ways and followed Jesus; the way, the truth and the life.

As we celebrate the feast day of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, let us reflect on the words of Saint Thérèse:

"It is trust and trust alone that must guide us to Love ... fear will lead us to that strict justice which is shown to sinners, but it is not that justice which Jesus will show to those who love Him." (The Story of a Soul, The Autobiography of The Little Flower)

May we place our trust in Jesus and have confidence in his merciful love.

Treena Tiller (Liturgy Committee Chair)



Liturgy of the Word

This week: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Ezek 18:25-28: Ps: 24: Phil 2:1-11: Mt 21:28-32:

Psalm Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Next Week: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 5:1-7: Ps 79: Phil 4:6-9: Mt 21:33-43:

Upcoming Parish Events

St Thérèse of Lisieux Feast Day

followed by shared kai, celebrations and activities in the church hall.

All are welcome.

Children, please come along dressed up as your favourite saint!



Otari parish faith formation team presents "Let the beads do the talking Rosary programme" on the 1st, 8th and 15th Oct every Thursday from 6.30-7.15pm in the blessed sacrament chapel. We will listen to commentaries before praying each decade of the rosary and conclude the mysteries with a shared reflection. Join us for a cuppa from 6.15 pm. Everyone is welcome."

 Otari parish
faith formation team presents

Let the beads do the talking

Rosary programme

 Thursdays
1st, 8th and 15th Oct

 6.30 – 7.15 pm

 Blessed Sacrament Chapel

We will listen to commentaries before praying each decade of the rosary and conclude the mysteries with a shared reflection.

 Join us for a cuppa from 6.15 pm onwards.

Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 4th October St Francis of Assisi Feast Day

Please join our final celebrations of the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi commencing with our **10am Sunday Mass**. Then, we shall gather at **1:30pm** for **The Transitus Prayer** followed by our **2pm Pet Blessing liturgy** in front of St Teresa's Church.
All are welcome.



TRANSITUS FOR ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Around the world in October, Franciscans celebrate the Feast of St. Francis (**October 4**). One part of the annual observance is a service on the evening of October 3, known as the "Transitus," or "passing" of St. Francis. It's a simple time of storytelling and prayers that recall how, at the moment of his death, Francis called out "Welcome, Sister Death!"

As part of our parish celebrations for the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, we will pray the **Transitus of St Francis at 1:30pm on Sunday 4th October**, prior to the Pet Blessing Liturgy at 2pm. **Please join us in prayer at St Teresa's Church.**

Readings

28th
September
2nd
October

2026

Mon: Job 1:6-22: Ps 16: Lk 9:46-50:
Tues: Dan 7:9-10, 13-14: Ps 137: Jn 1:47-51:
Wed: Job 9:1-12, 14-16: Ps 87: Lk 9:57-62:
Thurs: Job 19:21-27: Ps 26: Lk 10:1-12:
Friday: Ex 23:20-23: Ps 90: Mt 18:1-5, 10:
Sat: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17: Ps 118: Lk 10:17-24:

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 Mass.
All are welcome.



Parish and Archdiocesan Events

Voting this Election 2026

Archbishop Paul Martin is encouraging everyone to be enrolled this election so they can vote. Every election and every vote matters. This year changes to electoral laws mean that there is less time to enrol to vote.

- Enrolment closes on **25 October**, before voting opens.
- We can no longer enrol on Election Day or in the two weeks prior.
- We can no longer update details during the voting period.

Enrol or check your enrolment details online at [Home | Vote NZ](#). Remind others to check their details too. This is particularly important for people who may be marginalised by limited digital access, lack of time or knowledge of eligibility and the changes.

The Church is not telling you who to vote for. Rather, together, as Christians, we can help ensure that all voices get heard this election. Look out for brochures about enrolment and voting forms in the church foyer soon. This 3-minute video, featuring Archbishop Paul Martin and Anglican Archbishop Justin Duckworth, provides some compelling information about enrolling to vote <https://youtu.be/GSD-XRckhl> and is worth watching and sharing.

Children's Liturgy Workshop

Who is this for?

Current facilitators, parents of young children who want to know more, or parents or young adults interested in serving in this ministry.

When: Thursday 15th October from 6:30pm

Where: The Parish Office at the Presbytery



The **NZ Catholic Bishops** have recently issued a statement to the Catholic Faith Community regarding the importance of participating in the up coming General Election. Please click on the link provided to view their full statement:

<https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26>

Keep **Saturday 10th October**

free for a Men's 1-Day Retreat at the Home of Compassion,

Island Bay. Murray Adams, Ignatian Spiritual Director from Palmerston North, leading "I am ready for anything anywhere" **Want to know more?** Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280 email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

JOSHUA

Living in the Divine Will The Sole Purpose of Creation

Find out 10/11th October
Suzanne Aubert Catholic School
60 Monticola Drive, Papamoa Beach,
Tauranga 3118

Speaker Rev Dr Kevin Connors
To find out more please see the poster in the Church Foyer.

There are some copies of the latest **WelCom** is available in our Church Foyer but is also attached with the Newsletter in our weekly email. If you are not receiving this email please contact the office at: office2@otariparish.co.nz and request you are added on our list.



WelCom

Newsletter of the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand



Prayer Request

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

Update on St Thomas More Church and St Teresa Church Refurbishment

Firstly, following the closure of St Thomas More Church and the issuance of the Decree, we are now awaiting Archbishop Paul Martin to formally deconsecrate the church.

In the meantime, we have engaged a registered property valuer to undertake a valuation of the St Thomas More property. We anticipate receiving the Valuer's Report within the next two weeks. Once received, the Parish Leadership Team will consider the report and determine the appropriate next steps.

Secondly, as part of our ongoing commitment to caring for the needs of our parish community and ensuring that our facilities remain safe and fit for purpose, the Property Refurbishment Committee (PRC) has commissioned and received a Baseline Building Condition Report and Remediation Proposals for St Teresa's Church. The assessment includes a structural and seismic assessment, as well as an examination of the building's weathertightness, including the roofing and exterior cladding.

In addition, an asbestos management survey has been completed.

The PRC is currently reviewing these reports and working closely with the structural engineers and Quantity Surveyors to develop a more accurate understanding of the likely order-of-cost for the proposed remediation and refurbishment works. This information will assist the Parish in making informed decisions before proceeding with the commissioning of detailed design work.

Finally, we will continue to keep the parish community informed of progress regarding both the St Thomas More Church and the St Teresa's Church Refurbishment Project as further information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued patience, support, and prayers as we work through these important matters for the future of our parish.

We understand that you may have many questions and concerns, particularly regarding the St Teresa Church Refurbishment Project.

We would like to reassure you that the members of the Refurbishment Project Committee have generously volunteered their time, skills, and expertise to help ensure the successful delivery of the Project. The Committee is committed to working closely with Fr Joy, the Parish Leadership Team, and the Archdiocese of Wellington to ensure that the Project is well planned, responsibly managed, and delivers the desired outcomes for our parish community.

What we ask from you is your continued prayers, patience, and support as we move forward together.

With our faith, unity, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, **YES, WE CAN!**

Let us continue to support one another and work together to create a safe, welcoming, and fit-for-purpose space for our parish community—one that will serve us and future generations.