



# Otari Parish *St Teresa and St Thomas More*

**Parish Priest**

Fr Ron Bennett 021 065 8997  
Fr Sanele Finau  
476 6131

**Parish Office**

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476 6131

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**Postal Address**

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**Parish Office**

8.30am–12.30pm Mon-Fri  
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**Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton**

Tania Savage 475 3262  
**St Teresa's School, Karori**  
Mary-Angela Tombs 939 1725

**Saturday Vigil:**

5:30 pm (Karori), **Sunday** 8.30am (Wilton) 10.00 am (Karori)

**Weekdays:**

Tue 9.30am, Wed 6.30am & 9.30am, Thurs 9.30am, Fri 6.30am & 9.30am, Sat 9am

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday: 9.30 – 10am

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**14-15 April**

**Year B**

**Liturgy of the Word:**

**Response:** Lord let your face shine on us.

**Today's Reading:** Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2: 1-5; Lk 24: 35-48

**Next Sunday:** Acts 4: 8-12; 1 Jn 3: 1-2; Jn 10: 11-18

### You are my witnesses

Today's Gospel from Luke 24/ 35-48 is another post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. On an earlier occasion, Jesus had appeared to the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus, a village about seven miles from Jerusalem. This time, according to Luke, Jesus appeared among them when these two disciples went back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples how they recognized Jesus through the sign of breaking bread (v.35).

When they thought He was only a spirit and not in the physical form (v.37), Jesus revealed Himself as truly risen from death in His earthly body, by inviting them to recognize His hands and feet where the nail or rope marks would be (v.39). Jesus' victory over death is pointed out very powerfully in the renewal of table fellowship with His disciples, when He asked for food and ate it before them (v.41-43).

Although having told them on several occasions before, Jesus now opened their minds to comprehend what had been written about Him in the Scriptures (v.45-46) that has now been fulfilled. Also as written in the Scriptures, "repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be preached in His name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem" (v.47), Jesus now gave this commission to the disciples as the first witnesses of His fulfillment, right in Jerusalem (v.48).

Witness is a translation of the Greek word martyr. Some of this witnessing to the world requires martyrdom. Along with the commission of being witnesses, Jesus assured His disciples with God's promise to give them the power from on high (v.49) through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

**Main Point of Gospel Reading:**

Through the reunion with Jesus, the disciples' minds were opened to understand Jesus better through what was written in the scriptures. Since they have witnessed that the Scriptures were fulfilled by Jesus, the disciples were now to preach in Jesus' name about repentance and forgiveness of sins to the entire world, with the power from the Holy Spirit as promised by God through Jesus.

**Reflections**

How do I recognize Jesus' presence with 'flesh and bones' in the people around me and in myself? How ready am I to have my mind opened to understand about Jesus and the Scriptures?

Being called to the same commission given to His disciples, how do I live as a witness of Jesus, preaching about repentance and forgiveness of sins?

What did I learn from Jesus in handling doubts and fears in the minds of others when I'm carrying out the tasks of a witness?

**Father Ron**

### St Teresa's Church:

**Exposition and Adoration:** Is held on the first Friday of the month in the chapel after 9.30am Mass.

### Divine Mercy Devotion:

Divine Mercy Devotion is every Saturday night at 5pm.

### Stewardship thoughts from today's Gospel:

*"Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and frightened..."* – Luke 24:36-37



Throughout the day we have many opportunities to "see the face of Jesus" in others and to "be the face of Jesus" to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide "peace" to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength to live a "God-centered" life and not a "self-centered" life.

### Planned Giving:

Many thanks to all those parishioners who have given so generously over the past financial year.



New sets of Planned Giving envelopes and tax receipts for year ended 31 March 2018 are available in the church foyers this weekend and from the parish office during the week. Please try and collect these to save postage or delivery.

If you are not part of the Planned Giving Programme you are very welcome to contribute to the Parish through:

- Direct Credit
- Weekly envelopes

For more information or to become a planned giver, please contact the parish office. Note, you can claim 33.33% back from the IRD through completing a tax credit claim form. These forms are available in the office or online at the IRD. The Holy Places, Easter Offering and Planned Giving donations over Easter will be included in the receipts, year ending 2019.



*If we dare go to the fringes, we will find him there; indeed, he is already there. Jesus is already there, in the hearts of our brothers and sisters, in their wounded flesh, in their troubles and their profound desolation. He is already there.*

Pope Francis: *Gaudete et Exsultate*  
#135, 2018

### Pantry Goods for Refugee Family of Six:

#### St Thomas More -

Catholic Social Services and Red Cross are preparing for the next arrival of Refugees to Wellington. Those arriving in April are from Colombia, Iran, Iraq, Palestine and Syria.

Otari Parish have committed to provide grocery pantry items for a family of six (4 children aged 2 -7 yrs) and we are asking the St Thomas More 8.30am community for donations.

A list of the appropriate foods is available after Mass this Sunday. Just place your name beside one item that you choose to provide. Please no canned food containing meat. It is useful to have cans with pictures of what is in the can. Also check the expiry dates on all food.

Please remember to bring the food item/s you signed up for to the 8.30am Mass **Sunday 22nd April**. These pantry goods will be delivered to the Loaves and Fishes later that afternoon. Thank you for your support.

### Greenstone Doors Fundraiser:

Greenstone Doors is holding a Movie Night Fundraiser 23rd April 5:30pm \$20 per ticket. Join us at the The Lighthouse Cinema in Petone to see, "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society."

### Green Stone Doors Peace Retreat for Single Mothers:

This is a fully sponsored retreat for single mothers and is being held at the Magnificat Retreat Centre in Featherston.

For more information on either of the the above or to register please email [greenstonedoors15@gmail.com](mailto:greenstonedoors15@gmail.com)

**Teaching Night @ St Anne's Hall,  
Emmett Street, Newtown on  
Wednesday 18th April at 7.30pm.**



The speaker will be Fr John Rea and the theme is: *The gift of miracles*. The evening includes Praise & Worship, group discussion and fellowship.

**Everyone is welcome!**

### Father Ron's Visits:

Father Ron is now visiting the 'A' Streets in the Parish.



However, if you wish to have a visit from a priest immediately, please contact the parish office 476 6131 or Father Ron 021 065 8997.

### Day of Prayer for Vocations: Sunday 22 April

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is a special Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for our seminarians Jovanie and Alfred and those discerning the call to priesthood. Could someone you know become tomorrow's priest? Pray for this person. Invite him to consider priesthood. Affirm his gifts and qualities. Encourage him to be open to the possibility of priesthood.

Pope Francis: *"Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes", nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God gives us."*

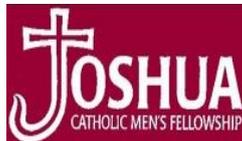
### Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women:

When: Saturday 21st April  
Time: 1.15pm  
Where: Connolly Hall, Guilford Terrace Thorndon.



The speaker will be Sr Marie Gore on the 'Holy Spirit with baptism in the Holy Spirit'. All women are welcome. Contact Shura 021 072 4042 or email [shuraprice@hotmail.com](mailto:shuraprice@hotmail.com)

### Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship Wellington:



When: Thursday 19th of April  
Time: 7.30pm  
Where: Connolly Hall, Guilford Terrace Thorndon

The speaker will be Father Peter Ewart, a Joshua chaplain. This is a sequel to stay *Connected to Christ* entitled *The Holy Spirit working in my life more than I realise*.

All are welcome and if you would like to know more please ring Steve Ready on 970-7715 or 027 356 9555 or email: [scjready@gmail.com](mailto:scjready@gmail.com)

### Catholic Women's League :



When: Wednesday 18th April  
Time: 7.30pm  
Where: St Teresa's Church Foyer

Our speaker is Father Ewart who will be talking about Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to attend.

### Work with Caritas:

Caritas has three vacancies currently being advertised. They are the full time *Communications, Marketing & Fundraising Advisor*, part time *Communications & Marketing Assistant* and a short term contract role of *Social Justice Week Advocate*.

If you're interested in joining the Caritas team and contributing to the Church's work in social justice please email [catharinavossen@michahpartners.co.nz](mailto:catharinavossen@michahpartners.co.nz) or visit <http://www.caritas.org.nz/get-involved/work-us> for further details."

### Events at Pā Maria Marist Spirituality Centre:

#### 78 Hobson Street, Thorndon:

- Non-Residential Guided Retreat: "The Pilgrim
- Winter Film Series: "Called to Be Blessed."
- Spiritual Theology Courses: "Evil, Sin and the Seven Deadly Sins" and "Befriending the Painful Emotions."
- Reflection Day (November): "Happy are The Poor in Spirit."

For further information (dates/costs) and/or to register please contact Fr Brian Cummings SM: phone (04) 212 4691 or 021 703 580 or email: [bgcummings@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bgcummings@xtra.co.nz)

### A Caring Space

We offer this breathing space for all who care for a loved one, a chance to step away for a few hours. It is an opportunity to gently explore, together with God, the way this role is changing your life, hopes, dreams and perspectives and above all the relationship with the one you care for.

Led by Gill Schaap and Veronica Parton at the Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St., Island Bay, Wellington on Saturday 5th May, Time: 11am - 2pm. Cost \$10. Please register with Veronica Parton 021 238 6675 or email [vjpdap@gmail.com](mailto:vjpdap@gmail.com)

### Readings for the Week



### Readings for the week of April 16th — 21st

**Monday:** Acts 6: 8-15; Jn 6: 22-29  
**Tuesday:** Acts 7: 35-40; Jn 6: 35-40  
**Wednesday:** Acts 8: 1-8; Jn 6: 35-40  
**Thursday:** Acts 8: 26-40 Jn 6: 44-51  
**Friday:** Acts 9: 1-20; Jn 6: 52-59  
**Saturday:** Acts 9: 31-42; Jn 6: 60-69  
**Sunday:** Acts 4: 8-12; 1 Jn 3: 1-2; Jn 10: 11-18



Please pray for Kelly Canning and Barbara Morgan who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occurs around this time.



## **New Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis – A guide to holiness**

On April 9, which this year marked the transferred Solemnity of the Annunciation, the Vatican released the latest Apostolic Exhortation from Pope Francis: **Gaudete et exsultate: On the call to holiness in today's world.**

*“The Lord asks everything of us, and in return offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created.”*

In his third Apostolic Exhortation (following *Evangelii gaudium* and *Amoris laetitia*) Pope Francis reflects on the call to holiness, and how we can respond to that call in the modern world. “My modest goal” in the Exhortation, Pope Francis says, “is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time.”

The five chapters of *Gaudete et exsultate* follow a logical progression, beginning with a consideration of the call to holiness as it is in itself. The Holy Father then examines two “subtle enemies of holiness,” namely, contemporary Gnosticism and contemporary plagiarism

### **Holiness in living the Beatitudes**

The heart of *Gaudete et exsultate* is dedicated to the idea that holiness means following Jesus. In this third chapter, Pope Francis considers each of the Beatitudes as embodying what it means to be holy. But if the Beatitudes show us what holiness means, the Gospel also shows us the criterion by which we will be judged: “I was hungry and you gave me food... thirsty and you gave me drink... a stranger and you welcomed me... naked and you clothed me... sick and you took care of me... in prison and you visited me.”

Pope Francis devotes the fourth chapter of *Gaudete et exsultate* to “certain aspects of the call to holiness” that he feels “will prove especially meaningful” in today’s world: perseverance, patience and meekness; joy and a sense of humour; boldness and passion; the communal dimension of holiness; constant prayer.

### **Spiritual combat and discernment**

Finally, the Exhortation makes practical suggestions for living out the call to holiness. “The Christian life is a constant battle,” the Pope says. “We need strength and courage to withstand the temptations of the devil and to proclaim the Gospel.” In the fifth chapter, he speaks about the need for “combat” and vigilance, and calls us to exercise the gift of discernment, “which is all the more necessary today,” in a world with so many distractions that keep us from hearing the Lord’s voice.

“It is my hope,” Pope Francis concludes, “that these pages will prove helpful by enabling the whole Church to devote herself anew to promoting the desire for holiness.”

The full text of the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate* can be found on the Holy See website at [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20180319\\_gaudete-et-exsultate.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html)