



St Patrick's, Makara

The first Catholic Church in the area. Built for £300 on an acre of land purchased for £50. Opened on 7 September 1873, by Bishop Moran of Dunedin, who was administering the Wellington Parish between the death of Bishop Viard and the appointment of Bishop Redwood. The Church is now a non-denominational Church and still in use and looked after by local Makara volunteers.

St Teresa's Church

In the mid-1920s, Fr PJ Smyth SM was the parish priest at the Basilica and he initiated a plan to raise funds and build a church at Karori. Early in 1927, work began on the site in Karori Rd, and by 8th May, the job was sufficiently advanced for the official blessing and laying of the foundation stone by Archbishop Francis Redwood. The brick church was officially opened and put under the patronage of a young saint canonised only two years previously. St Therese of Lisieux – the 'Little Flower'

On the death of Archbishop Redwood in 1935, the administration of the Basilica parish (which included Makara, Karori, Northland and Kelburn) passed from the Marish fathers to the Diocesan clergy and the first parish priest in this era was Monsignor Thomas Connolly. Fr Dan Nolan was the curate with special responsibility for the Karori-Northland area.

By 1940 a new parish was established comprising Kelburn, Northland and Makara and Fr Herlihy was selected. The new parish had three churches, St Vincent de Paul, Northland, St Teresa's, and St Patrick's, Makara.

In February 1956, Archbishop McKeefry announced that the Karori Parish was to be subdivided because of population growth and Frs Herlihy and Hehir (joined in 1953) continued to minister to a relatively more compact Parish.

By the 1960s, it was standing room only. Fr Hehir was temporarily moved to Brooklyn as assistant priest and along comes Fr Cahill. A wise move back in 1943 of the purchase of the two vacant sections, beside the existing church, became the site for the new church that stands today. Simultaneously with the start of the building project, Fr Hehir returned to live at the (new) Karori presbytery, having been appointed as Archdiocesan Director of Media.

16 February 1968, there was a preliminary function at which Archbishop McKeefry and Bishop Snedden, performed the consecration on the two marble altars in the church.

Information from History of St Teresa's Karori by Fr Hehir on the Otari Parish Website by David Ross.



Contractor for Hickmott and Hamptons, memorial and general stone masons, designed the mosaics, installed by Hickmotts from pre-1967.

Priests at St Teresa's Karori

Fr PJ Smyth 1927 SM (First Parish Priest)

Monsignor Thomas Connolly 1935 (Administrator)

Fr Dan Nolan 1935 (curate)

Monsignor Patrick Herlihy 1940-84 (Parish Priest) Pastor Emeritus

Fr John Higgins 1941-45 (curate) an expert in Social Justice.

Fr Joe Leahy 1945-1951 A keen sportsman organising much of the primary schools sporting activities and also playing a major role in the settlement of the Polish refugee children.

Fr Tom Murphy 1952 (curate one year)

Fr Bernard Hehir 1953-2008 (in residence) Archdiocesan Director of Media and Editor of *WelCom* newspaper, retiring 1990. Started in 1984 and 204 issues for 24 years. 12,000 copies to now 24,000 being published. He was among the first priests in New Zealand to make use of public radio and saw, very early, the potential of television as a means of making the Word of God more accessible and relevant to people. Hosted an annual dinner on the feast of St Bernard, your invitation was such that if you were named Bernard, you were on the guest list.

Fr Bob Jones (helping out 1950's) Archdiocesan Director of the Catholic Youth Movement

Fr David O'Neill (helping out 1950's)

Fr Jan Schokker 1950's (helping out) Dutch Assumptionist, arrived in NZ 1952 and then joined his order, living in Oriental Terrace.

Fr Mick Cahill 1961- 86 (Curate – Parish Priest in 1977, Emeritus) His silver Jubilee in 1985. He established what is now the St Teresa's primary school playground by organising the construction and building of the retaining wall along Monaghan Ave.

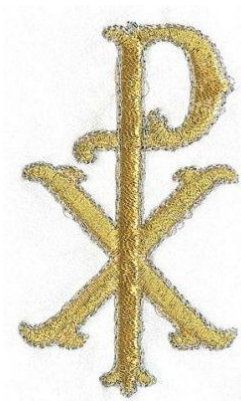
Deacon Pene Patelesio Joined March 1987, a senior seminary student establishing the Folk Music Group under the leadership of Peter Conroy.

Fr Bernard Miles 1986-91 (Parish Priest)

Fr Don Morrison 1986-89 *RIP 15 August 2021*

Fr Morrison will be remembered in Karori with some affection. He was assistant priest for a while with Fr Miles. He liked animals and brought a Scottie dog and at least one cat to the Presbytery, which was not good for Fr Hehir's asthma. Fr Morrison used walking his dog as a means of getting to know the Karori people of all types, as he was good at stopping for a chat and the dog was a friendly talking point. He tried to get to know the "youth" by riding in on the school bus with them. They found this eccentric behaviour on his part but he persisted and eventually the ice was broken.

Fr Don Manning 1989-90 Became Lay Marriage Celebrant and Funeral Celebrant



Fr Tom O'Brien 1991-2007 (Parish Priest) Retired home to Ireland, kept the show on the road. Great supporter of the music in the parish.

Fr John Berry 1992-94 Also assisted at Sacred Heart Cathedral and was hospital chaplain briefly.

Monsignor Bernie Tottman 1992 (Acting PP for several months while Fr O'Brien away in Ireland). (RIP 2001)

(Priests below helping out at various times between 1995 and 2003)

Fr Frank McGuire

Fr Jim Kershaw (RIP 2020)

Monsignor Charles Cooper (RIP 1940-2010)

Fr Barry Edwards (RIP 2014) (Took over the advertising for WelCom, following Fr Hehir's retirement 1990s.)

Fr Brian Austin (RIP 2018); Fr. Tony Kearns; Fr Peter O'Connell

Fr Seph Pjifers 2007-2016 (Parish Priest) Initiated the starting process for the closing of St Thomas More; but was transferred to the West Coast. Named the new Catholic Parish of Otari, incorporating St Thomas More and St Teresa's, 2015. Sorted the Music Liturgy Calendar, so that the 4 music groups* at St Teresa's had available Sunday/Saturday Vigil slots.
*Choir, Folk Group, Filipino and Tongan choirs.

Mary Anne Peetz (now retired) appointed Parish Lay Leader 2014, after the parishes of St Thomas More, Wilton and St Teresa's Karori, were amalgamated into one parish.

Fr Ron Bennett 2016 (Parish Priest, 2018 Moderator Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish) St Thomas More given a reprieve and was eventually needed when St Teresa's became Pro-Cathedral, when the Cathedral was closed for earthquake strengthening (2018). Cathedral parishioners had somewhere to gather.

Fr Senele (Retired from active ministry and moved to Auckland to live with family members, 1/12/2020)

Fr Tikoua Kautu 2018

Photo from Otari Parish Website Photo Gallery. The Altar and Sanctuary St Teresa's Karori, present day.



Information compiled from initial Priests Memorial Plaque idea (2016) by CWL Otari branch committee. August 2021, Lockdown, Level 4. The Branch however, at the time, were able to install a sign for the 'Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament'.