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Assistant Priest:

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Office open 9.00am—Midday Tuesday to Friday
Hall Bookings: Mira 022 682 5600

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

Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton.

Principal: Peter Hijazeen 475 3262

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

8th September 2024

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B



Mark's gospel today is one of the rare occasions where the evangelists record a phrase in the mother tongue of Jesus: Aramaic. This was a very direct lan-

guage, with few shades of grey, a black and white tongue which left your hearers in no doubt about what you had said. Jesus' actions also convey this directness, the spitting and touching of tongue and ears. They complement that one phrase of three syllables that came straight from Jesus's heart and from his prayer:

Eph-pha-tha – “Be Opened”.

A deaf man with a speech impediment can now hear and speak clearly. So it is with conversion of heart, of believers and unbelievers both; our need invites the mercy of Christ's miracle. ***Eph-pha-tha*** – hear and speak!

Chris Orsman (Member of Parish Pastoral Council)

Liturgy of the Word

This week: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 35:4-7; Ps 145:7-10; James: 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Psalm Response: : **Praise the Lord my Soul**

Next Week: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Is 50:5-9; Ps 114:1-6,8-9; James 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35



Otari Parish Youth Event

Otari Parish is excited to announce a **Pizza and Games Day** for our youth! Join us for an afternoon of delicious pizza, fun games, and great company as we bring together the young members of our community. This event is a wonderful opportunity to hang out, make new friends, and strengthen bonds within our parish family. Let's grow our relationships and create lasting memories together! Mark your calendars and come ready for a fantastic time. We warmly welcome all youth aged **12 years and up** - see you there!

8th September 2024 11:30am to 1pm at St. Theresa's Church Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Kleiner: 027 315 8503

HOMESTAYS NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARRIVING IN OCTOBER



We need your help! Get the word out! Let your friends know! We have 3 international students that we need to find long-term homestays for starting in October for Term 4. While we would love to find them a long term family immediately, we would appreciate a homestay taking them for Term 4 until we can find them a permanent home for 2025. Please consider this option.

- 1 Thai student
- 2 Chinese students

All three boys are long term students, returning for the 2025 school year. St Patrick's offers a homestay fee of \$340.00 per week for 2024, and \$360.00 per week for 2025. If you would like to host one of these young men please email Meg Szulinski, the International Student Coordinator at St. Patrick's College, at meg.szulinski@stpats.school.nz

"Following Christ - A Catholic Discipleship program"

Thursdays 6.30pm to 8.30pm at St Teresa's, finishing on 10th Oct 2024. Some of the topics covered are Daily personal prayer, Hearing God in scripture, The Power of the sacraments, Forgiving one another and more. The program will follow a format of prayer and worship, an uplifting video, a break and excellent discussions in small groups ending with encouraging practical tips to become a Disciple of Christ. The Otari parish Faith events team members are happy to answer any questions you have. Please sign up in the foyer or email office@otariparish.co.nz.

Parish Working Bee
21 September 2024



Please lock in date of Saturday morning of 21 September at 9.30 for the Parish Working Bee at St Teresas. More details later!

St Teresa's Feast Day and
New parishioners Welcome Day
29th September 2024



There will be a celebration with Holy Mass at 10.00am at St Teresa's followed by shared morning tea.

*** Note there will be NO 8.30am Mass at St Thomas More.**

Reconciliation is available after 9am Mass on Saturday mornings or upon request.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for personal prayer: Tuesday to Friday 8.30—9.30am
First Fridays 8.30am to 6.30pm concluding with Mass at 6.30pm



Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every Saturday evening from 5pm before the 5.30pm Vigil Mass, St Teresa's Church, Karori.
ALL WELCOME.

Social Justice Week: 8-14 September 2024

Imagine Peace for all: Choose forgiveness, know peace.

Pohewatia te Rangimārie mō te Katoa: Kōwhiria te murunga hara, kia mōhio ki te Rangimārie.



Each year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops lead us in Social Justice Week to consider an issue of social justice in Aotearoa. Last year we began a three-year Social Justice Week focus on peace and conflict. The Social Justice Week tagline for 2024 is 'Choose forgiveness, know peace.' The focus this year is on forgiveness and reconciliation. We shift the perspective from personal peace, which we explored last year, and instead look at how to relate to others from a Christian view and rebuild peace that may have been lost or broken. Forgiveness is something that we all experience, whether we are giving it or receiving it. When we decide to choose forgiveness, we are on the right track to peace. Through prayer, education, and action, we can work together to create a more just and peaceful society. For more information visit www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week. In the Liturgy Guide see Pg 11-14 for Daily prayers for forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

Season of Creation & Social Justice

"The reality is that a low, richer percentage of the planet contaminates more than the poorest 50% of the total world population, and that per capita emissions of the richer countries are much greater than those of the poorer ones." (# 9 *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis)

Action – There is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than ever previously recorded, new data from a New Zealand monitoring station shows. Consider our Pacific neighbours facing sea level rise. How might we advocate for them? Read about the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and act by signing the Faith Letter as an Individual.

See <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter>

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

Kaitiaki at Ōtari

Sunday 22nd September 2.00pm



Join church communities from the Catholic Parish of Ōtari, St Anne's Anglican Church Northland and St Luke's Anglican Parish Wadestown, on a reflective walk in the outdoors to celebrate the Season of Creation. Starting place – Ponga Lawn behind the main entrance to Ōtari/Wilton Bush. Bring kai for afternoon tea on the Cockayne Lawn. Easy grade tracks and paths. Includes a fun Nature Scavenger Hunt for the Kids. Wet weather plan – 2.00pm at St Thomas More Church, 30 Worcester St. Wilton.

Readings

9—14
Sept
2024

Mon: 1 Cor 5:1-58 Ps 5:5-7,12 Mk 7:31-37:
Tues: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1-6,9; Lk 6:12-19
Wed: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 44:11-12,14-17; Lk 6:2-26
Thurs: 1 Cor 8:1-7,11-13; Ps 138:1-3,13-14,23-24; Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-27; Ps 83:3-6,12; Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: Num 21:4-9; Ps 77:1-2,34-38; Jn 3:13-17:



Please pray for those who are sick and for the recently deceased.

*We also pray for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially **Anne Poland***

and

Marie and Brian Pohlen

and

Bishop Emeritus Denis Browne

Catechetical Corner

WHAT WE DO IN OUR CHURCH SERVICE IS CONTAGIOUS

I have been to the sky stadium in Wellington several times to watch a soccer game during the FIFA women's world cup tournament or to a cricket match. On all those occasions, someone or a group of people, from some part of the stadium started either to sing or shout a slogan in support of the playing teams that electrified the entire stadium, and the spectators sat and stood up forming waves across the stadium. A particular action that someone or a group started became so contagious! Well, it reminded me how important it is for us to know what we do at Mass and other Church services is contagious.

The Church service, whether during Mass or other gatherings, is a communal experience where each action holds profound significance. We can impact those around us in a positive or negative way. What we do during these moments is not only a personal expression of faith but also something that deeply influences those around us. When we sing with enthusiasm, pray devoutly, listen intently, show warmth and hospitality, place money offering in the collection box, devoutly serving at the altar, proclaiming the Word of God with positive vibes, chanting the psalm with reverence, receive the Body and Blood of Christ with faith, love, devotion and reverence etc. carry a contagious energy that can uplift, inspire, and unite the community in worship. When we do them, we impact in a very positive way the worship atmosphere for those around us. St. Augustine in his famous book, "Confessions of St. Augustin" wrote, "**How I wept deeply moved by your hymn, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears, distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion, surged within me, and tears streamed down my face – tears that did me good.**" (CCC, 1157).



- **When we pray aloud, our words echo beyond our own hearts.** They become a shared expression of hope, gratitude, and supplication, inviting others to join in and deepen their own connection with God. This collective prayer creates a powerful atmosphere where the presence of the divine feels more palpable, drawing everyone closer in spirit.

- **Singing during the service has an equally contagious effect.** Music is a universal language that transcends words, and when we sing together, it unites us in a profound way. Our voices, joined in melody and harmony, create a sense of unity and shared purpose. Even those who might be hesitant to sing often find themselves carried along by the collective energy of the congregation, lifting their voices in praise.

Fr Joy

(To be continued)

