



ŌTARI PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date and time – 7pm, Monday 22nd June 2026

Venue - St Teresa's Church Presbytery

Attendance:

Present: Fr. Cirilo, Des Tiller, Myrna Umali, Chris Orsman, Patricia Lynch, Amanda Russell-Kleiner, Neville Braganza, Adri Widyanto and Peter Wood

Apologies: Fr. Joy and Kiko Tu'amoheloa

1. Opening prayer and welcome - Chair welcomed the group and led the joint prayer to the Holy Spirit.
2. Confirm note taker – Adri Widyanto (thank you).
3. With some tracked changes added by Des, minutes from the last meeting of the PPC (25 May 2026) were confirmed and endorsed.
4. Outstanding actions – see table below

No	Item	Action	Owner	Status
52	Draft Parish Plan	Some updates, new info., small statements, from Family Group etc. Peter suggested putting something about STM closure under Stewardship. Add PPC and FC to Stewardship list. Put OCIA under Faith Formation banner.	Des	Des to update
58	Areas of Focus for the Parish	Agreed that we need more people involved, the need to keep parish community vibrant. Focus on growth.	All	Closed
59	JPD request for annual fee coverage	More information requested from JPD	Des	
60	Volunteer recruitment at the end of mass	Everyone to actively promote the Ministries within Otari Parish	All	
61	Appendix for the minutes	Provide an Appendix for the June meeting minutes	Peter Wood	

No	Item	Action	Owner	Status
62	STM asset inventory	Review and assess / absorb into ST church requirements / dispose incl allocation to other parishes, priests		
63	STM tikanga and special culture	STM tikanga and special culture are being raised with the Parish Pastoral Council/Liturgy teams and given appropriate consideration		

5. Reflection on AGM

Good things: well presented, good use of the church for the meeting

Not so good: went on too long

A few things to follow up: more things to do at STM towards closure

Parish plan: Moving forward should be facilitated by forming a small group of people with a good grip on the plan. Need another rethink what we want to get out of it with focus on resources & attention. Need to have the leaders of the different ministries in agreement and working collaboratively.

Pastoral approach: Proposed events to incorporate parishioners from St Marry of the Angles, Cathedral and Otari.

Fr Cirilo had previous strong Youth group experience in Newtown & Lower Hutt, which took the form of a group of adults who focus on a certain age group to promote understanding of topics around the church life and involve the Youth in the life of the Parish. Nelson area has 7 couples running the Youth group. The Parish priest has to be invested in it.

Finance Committee - more work on planned giving and sustainability

STM transition committee - detailed the work before STM closure

Liturgy committee - a plug to recruit volunteers

Parish priest & PPC chair - reaching out the community after the closure to ensure that they are supported

Mass time review - concern was expressed by some parishioners that proposed changes in Mass times is linked the STM church closure, which was a surprise to some. For now, the PPC will hold off on conducting a survey of preferred Mass times, but will retain 5:30 vigil Mass and 10 am Sunday Mass. This will be communicated to the Parish with a plan for further review in consideration of the refurbishment and based on comment from STM community. The Parish priest will have a final say in the Mass times.

Tikanga liturgy. The liturgy committee is busy at the moment, and welcomes everyone to be involved in the liturgical roster.

Inventory list: Thank you to the St. Thomas More Transition Group for the comprehensive inventory list. It is recommended for all the items to come to St Teresa church. The finance and liturgy committees will work together to manage the dispersal of STM assets. St Mary's College would like the Lectionaries. The aim: to renew St Teresa's tired items with items from STM.

6. Discussion on the Archdiocesan meeting on Synodality explored (how does it look when it's happening?) – Tue 16 June

Four of us attended the Archdiocesan meeting. The meeting aim to reinvigorate the Parish Leadership team. Otari Parish PPC is in a good space at the moment. There is a need to have more combined meetings with other leaders from other ministries.

Participants went through the first 3 items from "Reimagining Pastoral Councils" booklet and were provided with "A Feast for All Peoples" for future study.

This will help to strengthen the senior leadership at Otari Parish.

7. Events for late June and July:

- a. 23 June – Proposed date for deployment of Mass Time Survey
- b. 25 June – Scripture Group, 6:30pm - Last scripture group meeting
- c. 03 July – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 6:30pm First Friday of the month adoration.
- d. 04 July - Faith events team meeting
- e. 05 July – Movie Fundraiser – Refugee Family Reunification Trust
- f. 17 July – STM Memorial Liturgy, 6pm followed by a potluck/BYO meal. Quite a few clergy coming to this event. Fr Cirilo encouraged PPC, FC & Building committee to come to support.
- g. 19 July – Parish Youth Event
- h. Note the upcoming STM events in August.

8. Update from the St Thomas More Transition Group, including STM asset list (attached) - Peter

Appendix of the minutes will come from Peter Wood.

9. Update from the building committee – Chris
A meeting is scheduled for next Monday 29 June 2026. Des is waiting for a design brief draft from Peter. What do people like about the St Teresa church? The committee would love to find out about it.
10. Confirm action points from meeting
11. Date of next meeting – 20 July 2026.

Distribution

Fr Joy Thottankara A	Fr Cirilo Barlis	Adri Widyanto
Amanda Russell-Kleiner	Chris Orsman	Des Tiller
Myrna Umali	Falakiko Tu'amoheloa A	Neville Braganza
Patricia Lynch	Peter Wood	
Benny Tau'Alupe	Catherine Vernon	Otari Parish Office

Note Taker Roster – 2026

PPC Meeting	Note Taker	Notes
26 January	Myrna	PPC Chair is responsible for producing the agenda and meeting pack. Volunteers: Adri, Amanda, Chris, Kiko, Myrna, Neville, Patricia and Peter.
23 February	Amanda	
16 March	Chris	
29 April (combined)	Catherine	
25 May	Peter	
14 June (AGM)	Treena Tiller	
22 June	Adri	
20 July		
24 August		
21 September		
19 October		
23 November		
14 December (combined)	Catherine	

Appendix - Update from the St Thomas More Transition Group

A well-focussed and efficient group

The committee has been extremely active, through meetings where activities are being coordinated; and, intense research with local and Archdiocese archives, seeking out personal recollections (including from one of our Capuchin fathers who had been based locally), and searches of national archives. Good material is being pulled together to use at the three major, events and to ensure a permanent record of the Church's history is kept.

Generous support from our Clergy

We have received very good expressions of support for events from Priests who had been posted, or worked with the STM community. We are also staying close to our ecumenical partners who have (mutually) supported us in the past decades.

Our events

St Thomas More Feast Day Mass - 21 June

Through Father Joy, we have Pa Gerry confirmed as celebrant – We will need to use the Sunday readings, but there will be appropriate prayers and recognition of St Thomas More.

Matariki Memorial Liturgy and dinner - 17 July

The focus has been seeking out and inviting whanau of parishioners who have passed, and ensuring their involvement in the liturgy where possible – 50 emails gone out. The Church will be decorated appropriately.

Open Day and Memory Sharing – Saturday 29 August

There has been a generous response to the request that Parishioners support catering.

Final Mass – Sunday 30 August 4pm

Archbishop Paul (Chief Celebrant) will provide the liturgy to be used

General

STM tikanga and special culture are being raised with the Parish Pastoral Council/Liturgy teams and given appropriate consideration.

Safety requirements and parking/access are being given good consideration for all events