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**Parish Office:** Catherine Vernon, Maria Nunns, Justina Yong  
 476 6131 office@otariparish.co.nz 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: 8.30am Wilton and 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

**Cardinal McKeefry School,** Wilton.  
 Acting Principal: Kerry de Graaf 475 3262

St Teresa 301 Karori Rd. Karori and St Thomas More 30 Worcester St, Wilton. Website [www.otariparish.co.nz](http://www.otariparish.co.nz)

29th June 2025

Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles

Year C

**Reflection: Sunday 29 June 2025: Matthew 16: 13-19**

The gospel this Sunday centres on a remarkable exchange between Jesus and his disciples in northern Galilee. He asks them: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" The common belief seems to be that Jesus is one of the prophets of old returned to earth, or John the Baptist revived. Jesus probes further. He wants to know who they believe he is. Peter speaks up in a simple, direct, powerful profession of faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."



In the first place, what a gift to all of us, that God can communicate with us directly and reveal Himself. And we have the gift of knowing and recognising Him! Peter's profession of faith is the great prayer of foundation of the *qahal*, the assembly called together, the Church as we know it. It is the rock of our own faith too because Jesus asks us the same question. And with all our heart we too say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

All that followed from Peter's profession is profoundly significant. Peter is given the foundational name of "Rock" and is conferred with authority as the gatekeeper of the kingdom of heaven, with the power to loosen and to bind, to open or close the gates. These enduring promises hold true, for Peter and for his successors.

One of our gifts as Catholics is to hold fast to the great foundational passages of scripture, the words and promises of Jesus as recorded in the gospels. This is one of them. As are the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper: "This is my body. This is my blood." We hold fast in thanksgiving and praise to what we have been given once and for all.

*Chris Orsman, Parish Councillor*

**Liturgy of the Word**

**This week:** St Peter & St Paul: Acts 12:1-11: Ps 33: 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18: Mt 16:13-19:

**Psalm Response: Their message goes out through all the earth.**

**Next Week:** Is 66:10-14: Ps 65: Gal 6:14-18: Lk 10:1-12, 17-20:



## Parish Events

### Sunday the 22nd June 2025 1st Holy Communion Mass Congratulations and Prayerful Blessings to the nine 1st Communicants



#### Baptisms in 2025

Baptisms in the parish will be administered either **during the Weekend Masses** or on the **First and Third Sundays of every month at 2.00pm.**



#### Calling all youth aged 13-19 years old!!

Join us @ **ALPHA FOR YOUTH** from 27<sup>th</sup> July-14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 @St Tersea's church every Sunday from 11.30 to 1 pm.

We promise you great Connections, Awesome Conversations and Amazing Content! (Key message of faith) with food!

Registration is a must! You can also register at [office@otariparish.co.nz](mailto:office@otariparish.co.nz)

#### 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 Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

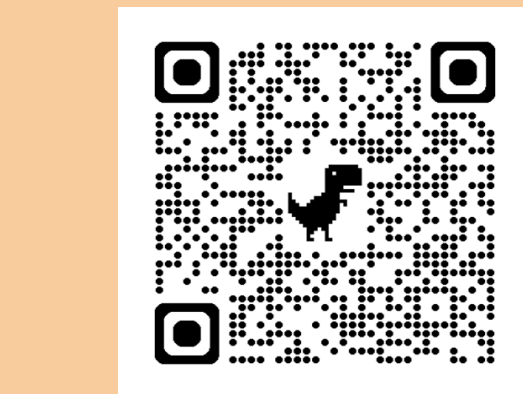


Every Friday, during Jubilee Year 2025, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for personal prayers between 6pm and 7pm. During this time there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On the first Friday of each month, Adoration will resume after the 9:30am Mass, throughout the day, and conclude at 6.30pm and Holy Mass at 6.30pm. **All are welcome.**

#### Divine Mercy Devotion

Chaplet of the Divine Mercy: prayed every Saturday evening from 5pm .  
St Teresa's Church, Karori.  
**All welcome.**



The **Otari Parish JPD** group can provide you with a link to make a submission to the select committee from a **Catholic Social Justice perspective on the Regulatory Standards Bill.** Please contact a JPD committee member whose details are available on our Parish Website.

## Parish and Archdiocesan Events

### Collection of St. Peter's Pence: a gesture to support the Pope in His mission

On **June 29** – which this year falls on the last Sunday of June – the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, and on this occasion, the traditional **Peter's Pence** collection takes place. This is a concrete way to support the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal Church. **Peter's Pence** is a gesture of communion and participation in the Pope's mission to proclaim the Gospel, promote peace, and spread Christian charity.

If you would like to donate you can either bank directly to:

Catholic Parish of Otari

Account Number: 020 536 0392292 00

Reference: Peters Pence **PLUS** your giving number.

OR you can place your donation in an envelope with you Planned Giving number and Peter's Pence written on the outside.

On Saturday July 12th at 2 pm **Douglas Mews** will be presenting a talk with the theme **"Early Organ Music Performance"** at St. Teresa's

featuring lots of organ playing as well as talking. This event is being promoted by the Wellington Organists Association and we would be delighted if members of the parish could join us for what promises to be an interesting and entertaining afternoon in the company of one of our celebrated local recitalists.

*"Today more than ever, humanity cries out and calls for peace. This is a cry that requires responsibility and reason, and it must not be drowned out by the din of weapons or the rhetoric that incites conflict. ... There are no "distant" conflicts when human dignity is at stake. War does not solve problems; on the contrary, it amplifies them and inflicts deep wounds on the history of peoples, which take generations to heal. No armed victory can compensate for the pain of mothers, the fear of children, or stolen futures.*

*May diplomacy silence the weapons! May nations chart their futures with works of peace, not with violence and bloodstained conflicts!"*

**Pope Leo XIV 22 June 2025**

**WelCom** has returned in a brand new format! It's now an eight-page newsletter, delivered to parishes throughout our Archdiocese, and also sent to parishes and Catholic schools in digital format. In this first edition you'll find a message from Archbishop Paul, hear about Cardinal John Dew's experience at the recent Conclave, discover what's happening in our Archdiocese, and more. If you have an event coming up in your parish, something you're proud of or would like to get the word out about, need help, or anything else, please let us know and we can include it in WelCom. Please email

[b.mack@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:b.mack@wn.catholic.org.nz).

You can read the first edition at this link: <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/DIGITAL-VERSION-WelCom-Issue-1-June-2025-compressed.pdf>

***This week we have also included a copy of it with your Newsletter email.***

### The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation –

Love is a Decision - online registration now open for the next Course on the Archdiocesan website, consecutive **Sundays 7 & 14 Sept 10am-4pm** held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Register early as there are limited spaces. Only two more courses before the end of the year, September and November.

Email: [marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz)

### Enrol at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College:

Study anywhere, at your own pace, with the support from qualified lecturers, with Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College online courses. Semester 2 starts July 21. To see courses offered in Semester 2, go to: [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/distance](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/distance)

### Readings

30 June  
5 July

2025

**Mon:** Gen 18:16-33: Ps 104: Mt 8:18-22:

**Tues:** Gen 19:15-29: Ps 25: Mt 8:23-27:

**Wed:** Gen 21:5, 8-20: Ps 33: Mt 8:28-34:

**Thurs:** Eph 2:19-22: Ps 116: Jn 20:24-29:

**Friday:** Gen 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67: Ps 105: Mt 9:9-13:

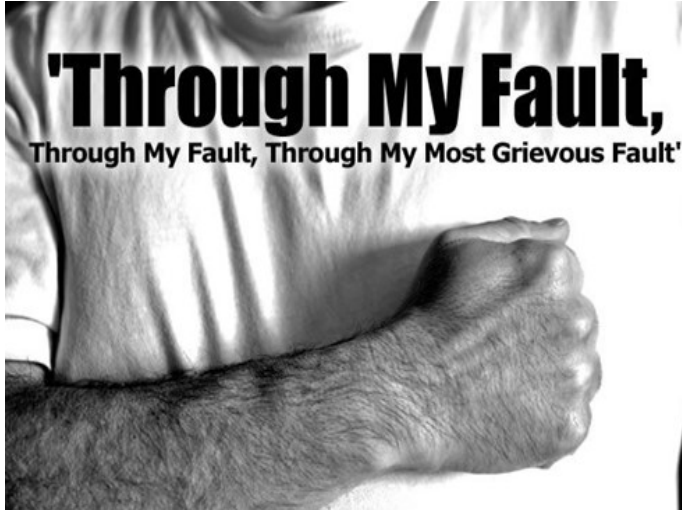
**Sat:** Gen 27:1-5, 15-29: Ps 134: Mt 9:14-17



### Prayer Request

***Please pray for the sick,  
For those who passed away  
recently and for those whose  
anniversaries occur about this time.***

### The Penitential Rite “I Confess”



The Penitential Rite is an important component of the Holy Mass. It is to help to prepare the congregation to celebrate the Eucharist by acknowledging their sins and seeking forgiveness. It is not enough to offer God an apology for our sins. If we sin against almighty God and against others, we need to own up to it and acknowledge the seriousness of our actions. Our actions have consequences. We have hurt other people. We have hurt our relationship with God. At this point in the liturgy, I am challenged to face the truth about myself, “That I have greatly sinned.” And I am challenged to take

responsibility for my actions. In this prayer, I don’t blame other people or make excuses for myself. I accept fully responsibility for “what I have done and what I have failed to do.” I humbly acknowledge that my sins are my own. I have greatly sinned “through my fault, through my fault, through my grievous fault.”

Through this act, we come to terms with the truth ourselves and express our sincere sorrow over our failings, because we are fully aware that we are approaching the holy presence of God in the Mass.

#### **Background:**

When people were given advance notice of God’s coming among them, they took time to prepare carefully for this holy encounter. At Mount Sinai, Israel has three days to get ready to meet the Lord, who then come to them in thunder, lightning, and cloud and speaks the words of the covenant -the Ten commandments – directly to them. In those days of preparation, they are instructed to consecrate themselves to the Lord and to wash their garments, a gesture symbolizing their desire to cleanse their hearts from sin (cf. Ex. 19:9-19).

We too are called to prepare ourselves for a sacred encounter with the Lord every time we go to Mass. Yet our meeting with God is more profound than anyone in ancient Israel ever imagined. For in the sacred liturgy, we draw near not just to a manifestation of God’s presence in the form of a cloud, but in the very Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. And we receive our divine Lord sacramentally within us in Holy Communion. However, our sinfulness stands in stark contrast to what we are about to do in the Mass. And so, the priest invites us to “prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries” by humbly confessing our sins publicly before the Almighty God and the Congregation. We, just like the people of Israel who needed to wash their garments before approaching the Lord at Sinai, so we need to cleanse our souls from sin before approaching God in the Mass.

*(To be continued...)*