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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

10/11 May 2025

4th Sunday of Easter

Year C

Vocation Sunday

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the father are one".

This passage offers a profound sense of comfort, identity, and assurance for believers. Jesus speaks with intimate clarity about His relationship with His followers—referring to them as "my sheep." The metaphor of the shepherd and sheep emphasises trust, guidance, and personal knowledge. Sheep recognise the voice of their shepherd and follow, not out of fear, but because they trust Him. In the same way, we are reminded that our discipleship is rooted in listening to the voice of Christ and responding with obedience.

Jesus' promise of **eternal life** and **security** is the centrepiece of this passage. "They will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" is a declaration of divine protection. In a world full of instability and uncertainty, this protection becomes active in our lives when we completely believe and trust in the Lord, these words ground us in the assurance that God's grasp on our lives is firm and unshakable. It's not our own strength that preserves us, but His.

Perhaps most striking is the unity Jesus expresses with the Father: "I and the Father are one." This statement affirms both the divine nature of Christ and the power behind His promises. He is not acting independently, but in full harmony with the Father. The protection He offers is not only personal but divine, rooted in the sovereignty of God Himself. Ultimately, this passage calls us to trust more deeply, to listen more closely to Christ's voice, and to rest securely in the knowledge that we are known, loved, and eternally held by God.

How often we hear the word of God and perhaps ignore, least interested or even sometimes reflect on what we heard. Are we receptive to God's voice in our neighbour, friend, or a stranger? I believe this is a very clear indication that St Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit to stand firm in his faith. Have we thought of standing firm in our faith? And to trust in His divine mercy & protection?

How often do we speak boldly about our faith in Christ? Have we been witnesses to His resurrection, as we hear St Paul spoke boldly about his faith in Jesus not knowing the consequences but completely trusting in the risen Lord. This very truth that Paul speaks without fear should enable us to have an unwavering faith in Jesus only.

If we are held captive for being a witness to Christ, to preach the good news, or persecuted then we will stand facing God in our white robes in front of God's throne and serve Him day and night in His sanctuary.

Neville Braganza

Parish Pastoral Council

Liturgy of the Word

This week: 4th Sunday of Easter: Acts 13:14, 43-52: Ps 99: Rev 7:9, 14-17: Jn 10:27-30

Psalm Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter: Acts 14:21-27: Ps 144: Rev 21:1-5: Jn 13:31-35:



Parish Events

Ōtari Parish AGM 18th May 2025:

The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held after 10.00am Mass.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.



Celebrating Mother's Day

Jubilee of Mothers

11th May 2025



There will be a shared morning tea after the 10am Mass.

Fathers and sons are asked to please bring a plate.



Parish Upcoming Jubilees:

25th May: World Children's Day: Jubilee of Children



2024 Sacramental Programme

First Holy Eucharist

Parent Information Evening will be held at 7pm on

20th May 2025

at St Thomas More Church in Wilton

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.



OTARI PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Join us for our next meeting on

Sunday, 25rd May

11:30am - 1pm

in St. Teresa's Parish Hall.

All young people 12 years and up are warmly invited to come along for food, faith and fun!

Please call Malia Tu'amoheloa on 021-141-5492 for more details.



Parish and Archdiocesan Events

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

In his message for the 62nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis wrote: "A vocation is a precious gift that God sows in our heart, a call to leave ourselves behind and embark on a journey of love and service." Please pray for our seminarians Kinh, Emilio, Gerson, Dyester and Kham, and for all those discerning the call to priesthood and religious life. Pray too that more young people will generously say yes to God's call. **Vocations are fostered within faith communities. So who can you encourage? Pray** for them | **Invite** them to consider priesthood or religious life | **Affirm** their gifts and qualities | **Encourage** them to be open to God's call.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

You are most welcome to join the Life in the Spirit Seminar on Thursday evenings 6.30—8.30pm in St Teresa's Church.

Refugee Family coming to Wellington. Household Goods and Pantry Goods needed.

Catholic Social Services have asked for our help for a family of 6 Refugees who are due in Wellington in the middle of May.

The family consists of parents, 2 sons aged 16 and 17 and 2 daughters aged 12 and 14.

There are sign up sheets available after Masses for Pantry goods and household items or alternatively you can contribute by cash or a donation into the Parish account - reference Refugees or purchasing a supermarket gift card or a Briscoes or Spotlight gift card.

Your support would be really appreciated as our supplies of donated goods are currently very low. There are labelled boxes for donations in the foyers.

Any questions contact Liz Bergin or Ethne Wyndham-Smith or any member of Otari Parish JPD Group



Come and join other men at Joshua this coming Thursday 15th May from 7:00pm for 7:30pm start.

Note: Venue change for this month only – St Joseph's Mt Victoria 152 Brougham Street.

Speaker: postponed from April; Michael Powell on "Power to do good in Jesus' name"

Want to know more? Ring David Monastra 027-4477-280 or email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

Hours of Mercy – Eucharistic Adoration at Sacred Heart Cathedral,

Thorndon on Fridays 16, 23, 30 May and 6 June from 10am – 2pm. Please register as per the poster or call 0225178988.



Partners in Mission

We would like to purchase a few Sacred Vessels and a Monstrance for the liturgical use in our churches. You are invited to be partners in this mission by your generous contribution in this Lent.

Otari Parish

02- 0536- 0392292- 00 Ref: Sacred Vessels

Readings

12-17
May

2025

Mon: Acts 11:1-18: Ps 41: Jn 10:1-10:

Tues: Acts 11: 19-26: Ps 86: Jn 10:22-30:

Wed: Acts 1:15:17, 20-26: Ps 112: Jn 15:9-17:

Thurs: Acts 13:13-25: Ps 88: Jn 13:16-20:

Friday: Acts 13:26-33: Ps 2: Jn 14:1-6:

Sat: Acts 13:44-52: Ps 97: Jn 14:7-14:



Prayer Request

Please pray for the sick, those who have recently died and Bob Murdoch whose anniversary occurs about this time.

HABEMUS PAPAM!



We, the Otari Catholic Family,
along with the Universal Church rejoice and give thanks to God, Almighty
for giving us a new shepherd in **Pope Leo XIV**,
on the eve of Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocation Sunday.

Pope Leo XIV (born Robert Francis Prevost, September 14, 1955) is a Peruvian -American Catholic Prelate. He served as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America since 2023. He previously served as Bishop of Chiclayo in Peru from 2015 to 2023 and was Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine from 2001 to 2013. In 2015 Cardinal Prevost became a naturalized citizen of Peru. On May 8, 2025, he was elected Pope, choosing the papal name **Leo XIV**.

Let us pray for our new Holy Father as he begins his mission to shepherd the Church!

God Bless our new Pope!