



Parish Priest: Fr Joy Raphael 476 6131 or 027 312 1869
frjoy@otariparish.co.nz
Assistant Priest:
Fr Tikoua Kautu frtkautu69@gmail.com

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

21st December 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

Year A



As we enter the final week of Advent, our preparations for Christmas intensify. In the First Reading from Isaiah and Matthew's Gospel we hear the promise that Jesus Christ, born of Mary and Joseph, will be called Emmanuel "God is with us." We can imagine Mary's fear at her unexpected pregnancy and Joseph's confusion at the shame it might bring. Yet Matthew's account of Joseph's dream shows his courage to trust God's message and welcome Mary as his wife.

Together, Mary and Joseph faced enormous uncertainty. Their trust in God's reassurance through the angel, "Do not be afraid" and their love for one another gave them strength to believe that God had a plan. It is fitting that this week we light the final purple candle, the Candle of Love.

Our world today is filled with challenges and uncertainties: conflicts without resolution, the climate crisis, growing poverty. This week's tragic terror attack during a Hanukkah celebration in Australia reminds us of the fragility of peace. Yet Hanukkah, like Advent, carries the tradition of lighting candles. A Jewish saying captures its meaning: "A little light drives out much darkness."

As we move through this last week of Advent and into Christmas, let us reflect on how "God is with us" calls us to be with others. Joy Cowley's poem *Little Lights* reminds us that Jesus spoke not of great bonfires, but of small steady flames that brighten dark corners. We thank God for these "little lights": a smile, a phone call, a wave, a cup of tea, an open door, a talent freely shared.

Often, when our own candle has gone out, someone relights it with kindness. May we, too, be little lights for others, carrying God's love into the world. Lighting the Candle of Love reminds us that even in darkness, God's light gives us strength. Let us carry that light with courage, remembering always the promise, "Do not be afraid."

Estelle Henrys (*Liturgy Committee*)

Liturgy of the Word

This week: 4th Sunday of Advent: Is 7:10-14: Ps 23: Rom 1:1-7: Mt 1:18-24:

Psalm Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Next Week: The Holy Family: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14: Ps 127: Col 3:12-21: Mt 2:13-15, 19-23:



Upcoming Parish Events

Otari Parish Youth Group

would like to thank everyone who assisted, supported and donated to our recent Market Day and Christmas Carols fundraisers. We are so grateful for your support of our youth.

Thank you!!!



Please join us for this year's Advent Novena at St Teresa's Church.

Sunday 21st December
Monday 22nd December
Tuesday 23rd December
Wednesday 24th December

Novena follows 10am Mass
6:30pm
6:30pm
9:30am - 10:30am



This Advent, to prepare for Christmas, you are invited to the **Sacrament of Reconciliation Rite II** on Sunday 21st December at 2pm in St Teresa's Church.

St Teresa's Church Family Mass Nativity Play

If your children would like to be a part of the Nativity Play at the family mass on Christmas Eve 24th December at 5:30pm please contact Jenny McGregor on 0278436088.

Rehearsal will be on the **21st of December following 10am Mass** in the parish hall. Costumes will be given out then. Parent helpers would be appreciated to support the running of the play too please. Children of all ages welcome.



Please join us at St Thomas More Church Christmas Eve Family Mass



Wednesday 24th December 7pm

Traditionally the Christmas Eve Family Mass at St Thomas More features a Christmas Nativity Play. If your child/grandchild, neighbour's child, friend's child.... would like to be involved please add their name to the sign-up sheet in St Thomas More Church foyer or email Estelle:

ev.henrys@gmail.com

No acting experience necessary – all ages and stages welcome.

Note There will be one practice at St Thomas More Church on Monday 22nd December (Time to be confirmed). It is hoped that children who wish to participate can attend this practice.

Parish and Archdiocesan Events



Dear Parishioners, I, on behalf of the Parish Leadership, would like to wish each of you and your families **A Grace-filled Christmas** and **A Blessed New Year 2026** and express my gratitude to all of you for your generosity, support, and co-operation for all that we have been able to do together throughout this **Great Jubilee Year 2025!** May the Babe of Bethlehem bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Joy Raphal
Parish Priest.

If you would like to make a donation for a farewell gift for Fr Tikoua, since he is leaving the Parish in January, it can be paid directly into our Parish Account of Catholic Parish of Otari 02 0536 0392292 00 with reference Fr Tikoua.

Vacancy: Hospital Chaplain – Wellington Regional Hospital

Catholic Social Services is looking for a compassionate, culturally responsive chaplain to provide spiritual and pastoral care to patients, whānau, and staff. This permanent, part-time role (15 hrs/week) is part of the Ecumenical team at Wellington Hospital with a particular focus on supporting Catholic patients while respecting and supporting all faiths. For information about the role and how to apply go to: <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4400348>

A Christmas Gift for the Poor

We would greatly appreciate your donation for Martha, Mary and Yon who have become homeless as a result of a house fire last week. Archbishop Paul has humbly requested that we consider a donation towards the Poor of our Archdiocese. The gift to be presented by a Parish Representative at the closing of the Jubilee Year Mass in the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10.00am . You are all most welcome to attend. Account Details as follows:
Name: Catholic Parish of Otari
Number: 02 0536 0392292 00
Code: Your gifting number or name
Reference: MMY
or Jubilee

Readings

22-27
December
2025

Mon: 1 Sam 1:24-28: 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8: Lk 1:46-56:
Tues: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24: Ps 24: Lk 1:57-66:
Wed: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16: Ps 88: Lk 1:67-79;
Thurs: Christmas Day
Friday: St Stephen, the first martyr
Sat: St John, apostle, evangelist



Prayer Request

Please pray for our parishioners who are unwell, For Pat Brown (long time loyal parishioner) who passed away this week and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.



Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

Day	Liturgies
December 16 to 24, 2025	Christmas Novena in St. Teresa Church at 6.30pm. Weekends: Followed by the Vigil & 10.00am Masses. December 24: After the 9.30am Mass in St. Teresa Church.
December 21, 2025	Advent Reconciliation, Rite II in St. Teresa Church at 2.00pm.
December 24, 2025	5.30pm: Family Mass at St. Teresa Church. 7.00pm: Family Mass at St. Thomas More Church. 10.00pm: Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Teresa Church.
December 25, 2025	10.00am: Christmas Day Mass at St. Teresa Church.
December 26, 2025 December 27, 2025	No Mass No morning Mass
December 31, 2025	9.30am: Mass at St. Teresa Church. 11.30pm: Adoration & Year Ending Prayers.
January 01, 2026.	00.15am: Holy Mass at St. Teresa Church. (Midnight) 9.00am: Holy Mass at St. Teresa Church.
Throughout January 2026	No Mass on Mondays. 9.00am: Holy Mass. (No Exposition)
January 31, 2026 February 01, 2026	5.30pm: Fr Tikoua celebrates his last Vigil Mass at St Ts. 10.00am: Farewell Mass for Fr. Tikoua. (No Mass at STM)

Wish you all A Joyous Christmas & A Blessed New Year 2026