



Parish Priest: Fr Joy Raphael 476 6131 or 027 312 1869 frjoy@otariparish.co.nz

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

St Teresa 301 Karori Rd. Karori and St Thomas More 30 Worcester St, Wilton. Website www.otariparish.co.nz

1st February 2026

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with the gift of a New Year, and I pray that this new year usher in each of us, our families, and our parish community God's choicest blessings! The new year brings along with it both opportunities and challenges. It provides us with the opportunity to grow deeper in our faith and to cement our togetherness as one community of faith in the mystical body of Christ and at the same time poses the challenge of building bridges that would enable us to be a community closely knit and living the faith, keeping in mind the only goal that we have as the people of God.

On this last weekend of the first month of the new year, we will have the painful experience of bidding farewell to Fr. Tikoua Kautu who has been serving in our parish for the last five years. We are very thankful to him for his selfless services rendered to our parish family and will gather to express our gratitude by celebrating the Holy Eucharist together and to wish him all the best and assure him of our continued support for his priestly ministry in Wellington South parish. *Gratias Fr. Tikoua!*

The major challenge that this year poses before us as we begin it, is to respond positively to the invitation of Archbishop Paul to form one parish community that worships together in one church which would be the fruition of the goal of the erection of Catholic Parish of Otari in 2014. This is certainly a painful and emotional experience for many of us whose lives have been associated with St. Thomas More Church for a lifetime but surely achievable with a generous heart and open mind. We turn to the Holy Spirit who moves and guides the heart of every Christian to guide us on this journey and I look forward to the co-operation of everyone as we move forward in this direction and I entrust this journey to unity to the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Therese and St. Thomas More!

We have been, as a parish family able to do a lot of things together in the great jubilee year 2025 and we look forward to keeping abreast with the momentum that we have made through to the new year which has been dedicated as a year of jubilee of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi which offers us another opportunity to reflect on the gift of St. Francis to the Church and the relevance of his teaching and way of life to the world.

The readings for this weekend define our Christian goal of eternal happiness and explain the attitudes and actions necessary to reach it. They form the outline for Christ-like living, noting the personal qualities expected of a disciple of Jesus and pointing out the way of life to be lived by a disciple. May we be strengthened by the Lord to respond to the challenge of the Beatitudes in daily life.

Thank you Fr. Tikoua... Prayers and Best Wishes for your future ministry...

Fr. Joy Raphael, Parish Priest.

Liturgy of the Word

This week: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Zeph2:3;3:12-13. 1 Cor 1:26-31. Mt 5:1-12

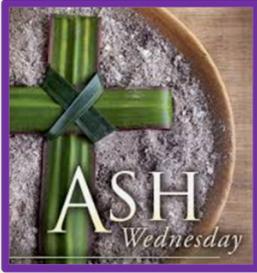
Psalm Response: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Next Week: Is 58:7-10. Ps 111:4-9. 1 Cor 2:1-5. Mt 5:13-16

Upcoming Parish Events

Waitangi Day Mass

9:30am at St Teresa's
Church Friday 6 February
All are welcome



Ash Wednesday, 18th February 2026

9:30am Mass at St
Teresa's Church
7pm Mass at St Teresa's
Church



Ōtari Parish
Stations of the
Cross will be
held every Friday
night during the
Lenten season

from 27th February to 20th March starting at
6pm.

Otari Parish Formation Team presents :

"The seven last words of Jesus"

Join us on a Lenten journey
Every Thursday from 19th February
to 26th March at 6.30 to 7.30pm at St
Teresa's Church.

No registrations are required. All are
welcome

Please join us for a cup of tea at
6.15pm if you can make it early!
Please email the parish office at of-
fice@otariparish.co.nz if you have
any questions



Do you want to serve on a team? Be a VOLUNTEER.



Volunteers are the hands and feet of Christ in our Parish.

Volunteers embody the spirit of service and stewardship, offering their time, talents, and hearts to make this community a place of faith, warmth, and generosity. Volunteers' tireless work strengthens our community, inspires others, and reflects the very essence of

our faith - love in action.

We invite all parishioners to become more involved in the liturgical ministries of our Parish. There are a variety of roles to suit your gifts, interests, and availability. Every one

of us has unique talents. Whether it's your voice, your organisational skills, or your ability to make others feel welcome, there is a place for you.

Please contact the Parish Office or check out our website

otariparish.co.nz to see how you can use your gifts and talents, in any of the Liturgical Ministries that you may like to be part of.

Parish and Archdiocesan Events

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 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, through out the day, and conclude at 6.30pm and Holy Mass at 6.30pm. **All are welcome.**



Note: This Friday 6th February, being Waitangi Day, there will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on that day.

World Youth Day 2027: Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form below and email Regina Fernandes at r.fernandes@cadw.nz for any questions.

St Valentine's Day Mass - the Archbishop invites you to the annual celebration of married love. All engaged and married couples welcome. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm, 5.30pm on **Saturday 14 February**, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon. Light refreshments to follow.

Come along to this joyful Mass before your dinner reservation!



The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation – Love is a Decision & Commit - online registration available on the Archdiocesan website.

Next course, consecutive **Sundays 1 & 8 March** 10.00am-4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Register early (couples attend both Sundays together in person). See the Archdiocese's website for information about getting married overseas and the papers required. Any queries contact: marriage@cadw.nz



"In this age, marked by so many seemingly interminable wars, by internal and social divisions that create mistrust and fear, St Francis continues to speak ...because his life points to the authentic source of peace...Peace with God, peace among human beings, and with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation."

Pope Leo XIV – [letter to Ministers General of the Conference of the Franciscan family](#) 10 January 2026

I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values. *Laudate Deum #69*

Readings

2 Feb to 7 Feb

2026

Mon: Mal 3:1-4. Ps 23:7-10. Lk 2:22-40

Tues: 2 Sam 18:9-10,14,24-25,30—19:3 Ps 85:1-6. Mk 5:21-43

Wed: 2 Sam 24:2,9-17. Ps 31:1-2,5-7. Mk 6:1-6

Thurs: 1 Kg 2:1-4,10-12 Ps 1 Chr 29:10-12 .Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sirach 47:2-11. Ps 17:31,47,50-51. Mk 6:14-29

Sat: 1 Kg 3:4-13. Ps 118:9-14 . Mk 6:3-34



Prayer Request

Please pray for our parishioners who are unwell, For those whose anniversaries occur about this time and for those who have died recently. We pray especially for Lateefa Matti Putros and Noreen Pearce



Memory times at Otari Parish

Dear all Parishioners of Otari Parish,

I would like to say to you all my sincere thanks and my gratitude before I move on to my new Parish. From the young to the old thank you all for your love and support throughout our journey together since I arrived among you five years ago. In the beginning of 2020, we started our journey together during covid19 outbreak, full lock down where no Masses at all. But through the help of our loving God we have all overcome the hard time together.

After covid19, we farewelled Fr Sanele who was very sick at that time and he wanted to retire from parish work. Then came the time to say thanks to Fr Ron for his ministry in the parish and he moved to the Seminary before his retirement. These three years as a three team was a very fruitful time learning from old priests. All these times together remind us that what we start will also come to an end but we have to move on.

From there I witnessed again the welcoming of Fr Joy to continue the work from Fr Ron in Otari Parish. The last two years together with Fr Joy was very enjoyable working as a young team among you. But this fruitful time has come to an end when the Bishop called me during our Clergy retreat last year and said. "Tikoua your time in Karori has come to an end and you are to move to Island Bay." I was shocked and motionless. I was very sad to hear that news and I know that I am going to miss all of you.

From the bottom of my heart I convey my sincere thanks to all of you. As often I said you are my fathers and mothers to me since my parents have passed away. Even though we will be parted we will continue to see each other. Let us pray together so that we may continue to grow in faith stronger each day. Lastly I will say THANK YOU COODBYE AND TIA BO.

