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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

St Teresa's School, Karori. Principal: Pip Cook
939 1725

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

15th March 2026

4th Sunday of Lent

Year A

This fourth Sunday in Lent is *Laetare Sunday* (Latin for Rejoice). Halfway through Lent, it allows us a small respite from the austerity of Lent.

Jesus brings light to those who believe in him, while those who reject him remain in darkness. In the First Reading, God chooses David to be King. Mere mortals would expect the eldest or at least an older wiser brother would be King. But David - the youngest, away tending the flock was Anointed by God, who looked at the heart and inner goodness and not the outer appearance.

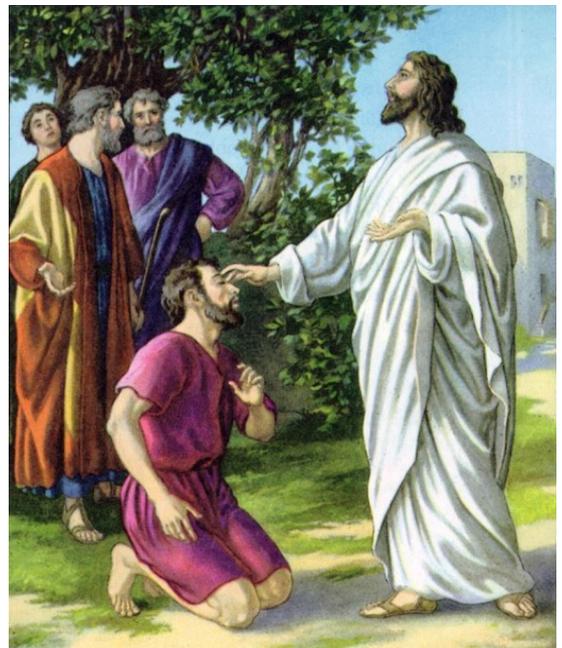
Our Responsorial Psalm's comforting words emphasises God as the Shepherd who is the source of light – guiding and protecting us through the darkness.

In our Gospel, the theme of light and anointing continues. In the miracle, the blind man when anointed with humble spittle and mud moves from darkness to light – just as those who are Baptised have done.

Let's remember to pray for RCIA candidates. Anointing with oil and 'eyes being opened' are part of the special journey in Lent for candidates asking for Baptism at Easter.

Those who refuse to accept Christ and continue to believe in appearance continue to live in spiritual blindness!

Peter Wood
Parish Pastoral Council



Liturgy of the Word

This week: 4th Sunday of Lent: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13: Ps 22: Eph 5:8-14: Jn 9:1-41:

Psalm Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Next Week: 5th Sunday of Lent: Ezek 37:12-14: Ps 129: Rom 8:8-11: Jn 11:1-45:

Upcoming Parish Events

Solemnity of St. Joseph
Thursday 19th March 2026



Please join us at
5:30pm for Holy Mass
at St. Teresa Church

Parish Lenten Reconciliation (Rite 2)

*“Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be
like snow; though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)*

Date: Sunday, 15th March 2026.
Place: St. Teresa Church, Karori.
Time: 2pm

Everyone is welcome!

Holy Week Rehearsals

St. Teresa Church
(Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday)

Sunday 22nd March
Proclaimers practice for the Passion Plays
(after 10am Mass Sunday and Good Friday)

Sunday 29th March
Altar Server practice for those rostered on
over the 11:30am Holy Week (Palm Sunday
through to Easter Sunday)

Preparation for Palm Sunday

Friday 27th March at
St Thomas More
**BYO dinner from
5.00pm onwards.**
**6.00 pm Stations of
the Cross in the
church followed by
Flax Cross Making & a cuppa/ supper
which will be provided.**



Flax crosses will be made from Harakeke
(NZ flax) for Palm Sunday. There will be
people to demonstrate how these are made.
**Mark this date in your diary and come along
for some prayer and fellowship. All welcome.**

**Can you spare 30 minutes to find
out more about the Living Wage?
Come along for a chat over coffee
(or tea) and kai.**

**Sunday 22 March, 9.30am:
St Thomas More Church Lounge**

You're warmly invited to a community Table Talk
where we'll explore the real difference a living wage
can make for workers and families. We'll
share experiences of those earning the current living
wage of **\$28.95 per hour**, compared with the mini-
mum wage of **\$23.50 per hour**, and reflect together
on what dignity in work truly looks like.
Finn Cordwell (Living Wage Lead Community Organiser)
will be our guest and share the aim of Greater Wel-
lington becoming a region of Living Wage Cities.
*Hosted by Ōtari Parish Justice Peace and
Development Group*

Donation Receipts:

March is the last month of the financial year
and receipts for your donations to the Parish
will be emailed out in mid April.
If you are a new giver, having made
donations in the last financial year to the
Parish, and have NOT been receiving the
newsletter email, it means we may not have
your address.
Please contact the parish office at
office@otariparish.co.nz and we will update
your details.

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.

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



Parish and Archdiocesan Events

FORMATION FOR PROCLAIMERS

All proclaimers for the Weekday, Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses (St Teresa and St Thomas More) are please asked to attend a Formation session at **St Teresa's on Wednesday, 18th March 2026, at 7.00pm-8.00pm.**

New parishioners who are interested in joining our Proclaimers team are also welcome; please contact Audrey (St Teresa), Estelle (St Thomas More) or the Parish Office if you would like to join the team.



This Lent, Answer the call.

This Lent, Caritas New Zealand invite you to:
Whakarongo ki te reo - Hear the voice.
Whakahokia i te karanga - Answer the call.

Together, your compassion becomes **hope in action**. From Bangladesh to Timor-Leste, from the Pacific to Gaza, families are living through hardship and uncertainty. Your gift ensures they are **not** alone.
Caritas Lenten envelopes are available in the foyer today.

Come and join other men at Joshua Wellington's next meeting on Thursday 19th March 2026 from 7:00pm for a cuppa and a 7:30pm start in Connolly Hall 10 Guildford Terrace (next to the Sacred Heart Cathedral).



Speaker: Monsignor Gerard Burns on "The relevance of faith in 2026"

Want to know more?

Ring David 027-4477 280

email: joshua.wgtn@gmail.com

THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD?

Join us for a VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT - 27 - 29 March 2026

@ Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston.

A discernment retreat for young men exploring a call to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Closing date for registrations: Contact Lucienne @ l.hensel@cadw.nz for more information.



Thank you Andrew Gee for this photo of the annual Ecumenical Service of the World Day of Prayer . This year it was held at St Ann's Anglican Church in Northland and written for the women of Nigeria .

Readings

16-21
March
2026

Mon: Is 65:17-21: Ps 29: Jn 4:43-54:

Tues: Jer 1:4-9: Ps 116 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20:

Wed: Is 49:8-15: Ps 144: Jn 5:17-30:

Thurs: 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16: Ps 88: Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24:

Friday: Wis 2:1, 12-22: Ps 33: Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30:

Sat: Jer 11:18-20: Ps 7: Jn 7:40-52:



Prayer Request

Please pray for our parishioners who are unwell, For those who passed away recently and for Elsa Illana whose anniversary occurs about this time.

Easter Timetable



Liturgy Schedule 2026

| Day | Time | Liturgy |
|---------------------------------|---------|---|
| 15/03/2026 Sunday | 2:00pm | Lenten Reconciliation Service - Rite 2 at St. Teresa Church |
| 28/03/2026 Saturday | 5:30pm | Vigil Mass at St. Teresa Church |
| 29/03/2026 Palm Sunday | 10:00am | Holy Mass at St. Teresa Church (no Holy Mass at St. Thomas More Church) |
| 02/04/2026 Holy Thursday | 7pm | Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Teresa Church |
| 03/04/2026 Good Friday *** | 10:00am | Stations of the Cross at St. Teresa Church |
| | 3:00pm | Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at St. Teresa Church |
| 04/04/2026 *** Holy Saturday | 8:00pm | The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St. Teresa Church |
| 05/04/2026 Easter Sunday | 8:30am | Holy Mass at St. Thomas More Church |
| | 10:00am | Holy Mass at St. Teresa Church |

Chrism Mass, 7:30pm Wednesday 1st April at Sacred Heart Cathedral

- * **Good Friday:** 9:30am Ecumenical Way of the Cross - A Procession of Witness Walk from St. Anne's Anglican Church Northland to St. Thomas More Church
- ** **Good Friday:** There will be a *Collection for Holy Places* during Veneration of the Cross
- *** **Holy Saturday:** You are encouraged to bring your own candles (including a drip catcher) to be blessed and taken back home.

Lord Jesus, as we remember Your Passion, deepen our faith and draw us closer to Your heart of mercy. May Your sacrifice renew our hope and lead us into the joy of Your Resurrection.