Catholic Parish of Ōtari

St Teresa's Church, Karori

Parish Priest: Fr Joy Raphal 476 6131 or 027 312 1869
frjoy@otariparish.co.nz
Parish Office: Catherine Vernon, Maria Nunns
office@otariparish.co.nz 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington 6012
Office Hours: 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: 10.00am Karori
Weekdays: Tue-Fri 9.30am, Saturday 9.00am Reconciliation: Saturday 9.30—10.00am

29th November 2026 **First Sunday of Advent** **Year B**

A very happy liturgical New Year!



Today marks the beginning of Advent—a season of preparation, spiritual readiness, and renewal.

Our readings share a distinct theme of spiritual cleansing, offering heartfelt pleas for purification rather than a literal washing ritual. Each reading touches on this in a unique way.

In Isaiah, the people confess their sin and beg God to forgive them and reshape them like clay in a potter's hands. Our Psalm asks that we be brought back into God's light. Paul reminds us in Corinthians of God's cleansing grace, while Mark calls us to keep our spiritual house in order—clearing out complacency and distraction so we are ready for the coming of Christ.

Alongside our spiritual preparation, there is also practical work to be done as we clean and prepare our church for the Christmas season. Please look out for details on our traditional working bee, as well as upcoming opportunities for Confession.

Once again, a very happy and holy New Year to you all!

Peter Wood
Parish Pastoral Council

Month of the Holy Souls

You are invited throughout November to place the names of loved ones in boxes/baskets in the Church foyers to be presented at Masses and prayed for.

Liturgy of the Word

This week: First Sunday of Advent: Is 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8: Ps 79: 1 Cor 1:3-9: Mk 13:33-37:
Response: *Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we will be saved.*
Next week: Second Sunday of Advent: Is 40:1-5, 9-11: Ps 84: 2 Pet 3:8-14: Mk 1:1-8:

Ōtari Parish Ministries Recruitment Drive Results

Thank you to everyone who signed up to volunteer their time in the various ministries last weekend. We successfully recruited 18 new volunteers and a further 11 parishioners already in ministries signed up for other ministries as well. We are most appreciative of your willingness to serve our parish.
The co-ordinators of your chosen ministries will contact you to welcome you and initiate you into the ministries over the coming week.
IF you missed the opportunity but feel called to volunteer, please contact the parish office so they can forward your details to the co-ordinators.



On behalf of Ōtari Parish we welcome **Jo Beckwith** as our new Parish Office Administrator.
After 28 years, Catherine Vernon is retiring at the end of December 2026.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for Pope Leo and parishioners who are unwell. For those who have passed away recently and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Readings: 29th November to 5th December 2026

Monday: Rom 10:9-18: Ps 18: Mt 4:18-22:
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10:Ps 71: Lk 10:21-24:
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10: Ps 22: Mt 15:29-37:
Thursday: Is 26:1-6: Ps 117: Mt 7:21< 24-27:
Friday: Is 29:17-24: Ps 26: Mt 9:27-31:
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26: Ps 146: Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

On the first Friday of each month, Adoration will resume after the 9:30am Mass, throughout the day, and conclude with Mass at 6pm.
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament is from 8:30am and Holy Eucharist at 9:30am on weekdays (Except Monday) in the Chapel. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events

Sacrament of Confirmation 2026/2027

This Sunday Archbishop Paul confirms the following 9 children from our Ōtari Parish. "May the Holy Spirit, strengthen our confirmands with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe. Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ".



Linda Chen Jayden Perera Manu Susilio	Rovi Pathirana Elisse Pido Benjamin Whitehouse	Matheo Pennavayre Dishan Rathnasekara Lily Zoeller

Monday 8th December

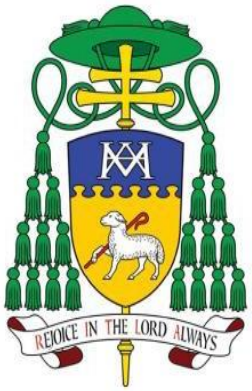
*The Mass of the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** will be celebrated at 6:30pm at St Teresa's Church.*
All are welcome.



Working Bee

In preparation for Christmas - YOU ARE INVITED TO COME ALONG TO OUR PARISH WORKING BEE ON SATURDAY THE 12TH OF DECEMBER – commencing after the 9am Mass.
THE MORE THE MERRIER!

GRECCIO: THE SONG – A Christmas Invitation - Saturday, 5 December | Allan Gibbs Centre, Wellington College, 7.30pm Evening Show.
Bring your family and friends to *Greccio: The Song*, Scan the QR code for tickets and support your parish. 25% of net ticket sales made through your parish link will be returned to the parish. (Full details on poster attached). For enquiries: vineyardhouse.nz@gmail.com



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

26th November

Dear Parishioners

I am writing to let you know that I am appointing Fr Tony Kearns as your parish priest for 2027.

Fr Tony has been leading St Joseph's parish in Upper Hutt in recent years. He is an experienced priest of the Archdiocese.

Fr Joy has generously accepted the appointment to be the parish priest of Our Lady of Kapiti following the death of Fr Pene earlier this year. I am grateful to Fr Joy for his ministry in the parish over these three years and with you pray for God's blessings on him as he moves to the Kapiti Coast.

I know that you will welcome Fr Tony warmly and I look forward to seeing the parish continue to grow and flourish under his leadership.

Yours in Christ

+ P. G. Martin sm

 Paul Martin SM Archbishop of Wellington

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