



Ōtari Parish Catholic Church

Parish Pastoral Council Chair's

Annual General Meeting Report - 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa,

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), I am pleased to present this report reflecting on the past twelve months in the life of Ōtari Parish.

The past year has been one of both challenge and opportunity for our parish community. We have continued to navigate a period of change while remaining focused on our mission to be a welcoming, faith-filled community centred on Christ, service, and connection. I would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of our Parish Priest, the dedication of PPC, Parish Finance Committee (PFC) members, ministry leaders, and all parishioners who contribute to the life of our parish.

Parish life over the past year has remained active and connected. Our Sunday liturgies have continued to bring the community together in worship, supported by the commitment of our liturgical ministries including readers, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, and those who provide hospitality. Sacramental programmes have supported families and young people in their faith journey.

A significant focus this year has been the transition following the decision to close St Thomas More (STM) Church. This has been an important and, for many, emotional change. The PPC has worked to support parishioners through this transition, ensuring continuity of worship and pastoral care, while also seeking to foster a unified and welcoming parish community. We are grateful for the openness, resilience, and compassion shown by parishioners during this time. This year we also said "Haere rā" to Fr Tikoua.

Over the past twelve months, the PPC has also progressed work on developing a high-level Parish Plan to guide our future direction. This has involved reflecting on who we are as a parish, identifying our priorities, and beginning to shape a practical framework to support our mission. This work is still in progress, and we are committed to continuing this journey with the input of parishioners to ensure the plan reflects our shared vision and aspirations.

In light of the changes within the parish, including the upcoming closure of STM, the PPC has initiated a review of weekend Mass times. This review is being undertaken carefully and prayerfully, taking into account Archbishop Paul's pastoral direction, Canon Law requirements, the wellbeing and sustainability of clergy and ministries, and the importance of maintaining a viable and connected community. We are committed to a transparent and consultative process, with opportunities for parishioners to provide feedback before decisions are made.

This year has also highlighted a number of ongoing challenges, including balancing available resources with future needs, supporting our volunteers, and managing change in a way that is both pastoral and inclusive. These experiences have reinforced the importance of shared leadership, clear communication, and remaining grounded in our faith.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to our Parish Priest for his leadership and care, to PPC and PFC members for their commitment and thoughtful contributions, to ministry leaders and volunteers who sustain parish life, and to all parishioners for your faith, patience, and support throughout the year.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on continuing to strengthen our community following the STM transition, finalising and implementing the Parish Plan, developing plans for the refurbishment of St Teresa's Church, and completing the Mass times review. While change brings challenges, it also offers opportunities for renewal, and we move forward with confidence and hope in the future of Ōtari Parish.

In closing, let us continue to support one another and place our trust in God as we journey forward together.

Ngā mihi nui,

Des Tiller

Ōtari Parish Pastoral Council Chair
13 June 2026