



TE AWAKAIRANGI

A Catholic Parish of the Archdiocese of Wellington
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30 March 2025

Dear Avalon Church Community,

I am writing to you today with a mix of sadness and hope. As you are aware, our parish has been undergoing a property review process, beginning in 2019 by Cardinal John and guided by Archbishop Paul to ensure our buildings are used wisely. After careful consideration and consultation, the difficult decision has been made to begin the closure of St Martin de Porres church for sale.

This decision was not taken lightly, and I understand the deep emotional connection many of you have with this sacred space. Countless memories, from weddings and baptisms to funerals and countless moments of prayer, have been shared within these walls.

I want to acknowledge the pain and sadness that comes with this change. However, I also want to assure you that this decision is part of our parish's larger vision to ensure the sustainability and vitality of our community. We must adapt to the changing needs of our parish and the wider Archdiocese. As we begin on this new chapter, I invite you to join me in praying for guidance and wisdom. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to comfort us and inspire us as we navigate this transition.

To support this process, I am calling upon a team of dedicated parishioners to form a Closure Team. This team will lead the process of closing St Martin de Porres, including planning a final closure Mass to be celebrated later this year.

If you feel called to be part of this team, please speak with Tony McKone or Phil Adamczyk. The rest of the parish community will be informed of this decision through next week's bulletin, and we invite their prayers and support during this time.

I am grateful for your understanding, support and prayers during this challenging time. May we continue to walk together as a community, trusting in God's providence and guidance.

With blessings and appreciation

Fr Raja, SVD



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