



Diocese
of Dunedin

Alexandra Catholic Pastoral Area

Omakau (1870) Alexandra (1924) Roxburgh (1950)

www.alexatholic.nz

Parish Priest

Rev Fr Vaughan Leslie
Cell: 027 385 9615
frvupleslie@yahoo.com

Presbytery

7 Killarney Street
Alexandra 9320
Ph: 03 448 8202
alexatholic@xtra.co.nz

Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Mr Brian McLean

Finance Committee

& Maintenance Team Chair
Mr Doug Stanaway

Catholic Social Services

0800 277 669 (toll-free)
Ph: 03 448 5385 (Mon-Wed)

St Gerard's Primary School

Acting Principal
Mrs Julie Flannery

Acting DRS

Mrs Neroli Laidlaw

Board Chair

Mrs Kerrie Fahey

Ph: 03 448 8339

office@stgerards.school.nz



First Sunday of Advent

1 December 2019; Year A / Weekdays Year 2

MASS TIMES

Sundays

Omakau 6:00pm Vigil (Sat)
Alexandra 9:00am
Roxburgh 11:00am

Weekdays

Alexandra

Tuesday 5:00pm (side chapel)
Wednesday 9:00am (side chapel)
Thursday 9:00am (side chapel)
Friday 12:00pm (church)
Saturday 9:00am (side chapel)

Roxburgh

Wednesday 5:15pm (church)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Alexandra

Friday 11:00am—Noon
(11:45am Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

Alexandra

Saturday 11:30am-Noon
(on request)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Quarterly

Alexandra

Friday 12:00pm
(1st Fri of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec)

Roxburgh

Wednesday 5:15pm
(1st Wed of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec)

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OTHER CENTRAL OTAGO PARISH SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Ranfury 5:00pm (Sun) or
4:00pm during daylight
savings

Cromwell 11:00am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sun)
9:00am (2nd, 4th Sun)

Wanaka 9:00am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sun)
11:00am (2nd, 4th Sun)

Queenstown 6:30pm Vigil (Sat)
9:00am

Arrowtown 11:00am

Garston 11:00am (2nd Sun)

Glenorchy 11:00am (4th Sun)

Sunday Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:37-44

Responsorial Psalm

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.



Died Recently

Anniversaries
Eileen McMahon
Les & Daphne Ward

**Requiescant
in Pace**

ANOINTING MASSES THIS WEEK—Roxburgh Wed 5:15pm, Alexandra Fri 12pm

150TH DIOCESAN JUBILEE—Justice Action

At the request of Bishop Michael parishes are invited to mark this Jubilee through social justice actions; therefore, after consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, St Gerard's School and the Parish Community (after **Monday 9am morning prayer in the School Hall, 2 Dec**) will head around the town to collect rubbish. Parishioners are invited to the prayer time and to take part in the clean-up.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS—24 DAYS / 24 CHAPTERS

You might light to undertake this devotion privately or in groups of your making from 1-24 Dec to prepare yourself for Christmas by reading the Gospel of Luke. One Chapter of Luke takes about 7-minutes to read—the same time it takes to eat breakfast, cook pasta or rice! For details of the reading programme, daily reminders and inspiration throughout Dec please visit facebook.com/adventjourney2019

COLUMBAN CALENDARS—On sale now for \$12

THE COMMUNITY PANTRY—Presently we are urgently short of tinned spaghetti, baked beans and pasta. Also needed: tinned fish, rice risotto, 2-minute noodles, long-life milk, 100's tea bags, peanut butter, vegie/marmite approx. 250g size. Thank you for your continued support.

OASIS OPPORTUNITY SHOP—The Oasis shop is open
Tues to Fri from 11am-4pm.

MOZART'S CORONATION MASS will be performed by the Central Otago Regional Choir, accompanied by organist Kemp English. Kemp will also be playing music for organ and violin with violinist Yuka Eguchi from the NZSO. Concerts will be Friday 29 Nov in the Arrowtown Athenaeum Hall at 7:30pm; Saturday 30 Nov in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Wanaka at 7:30pm; and Sunday 1 Dec in the Dunstan High School Hall Alexandra at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$25, school students free.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Tue 24 Dec Christmas Eve
6:00pm: Omakau (Vigil)
Carols from 5:30pm
9:00pm: Alexandra (Vigil)
Carols from 8:30pm

Wed 25 Dec Christmas Day
9:00am: Alexandra
11:00am: Roxburgh

Please Note: January Mass timetable is the same as during the year.

ADVENT CONFESSION TIMES (Rite I)
Sun 22 Dec 1:00-1:30pm (Alex)
Tue 24 Dec 10:00-10:30am (Alex)

A Star is Born

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

7pm Sunday 08 December 2019

Alexandra Baptist Church // 6 Gregg Street

free entry // all welcome

Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Appeal
bring a gift and make a difference

supported by the Combined Churches of Alexandra

Pope at Santa Marta: 'Death Is An Encounter with the Lord'

29 November 2019—[ZENIT](#)

The certainty of death is written in the Bible and in the Gospel, reminded Pope Francis in his homily in this morning's Mass at Saint Martha's, "however, the Lord always presents it to us as an 'encounter with Him' and He accompanies it with the word 'hope.'"

Early in the morning of Friday, November 29, 2019, the Bishop of Rome reflected on death and described it has the moment of the Lord's embrace, inviting us to prepare ourselves for that moment, and to pray for one another, reported "Vatican News" in Spanish.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away," was the quote from Saint Luke's Gospel, proposed in today's liturgy, in the last week of the Liturgical Year. The Church invites us to reflect on the end, the end of the world, the end of each one of us, in this month of November, month of the deceased.

"The Lord tells us to be prepared for the encounter; death is an encounter: it is He who comes to meet us; it is He who comes to take us by the hand with Him," he explained. "I don't want this simple sermon to be a funeral announcement! It's simply the Gospel, it's simply life; it's simply to say to one another: we are all vulnerable and we all have a door at which the Lord will call one day."

We Are All Vulnerable

"We all have this weakness of life, this vulnerability," clarified the Pontiff. We are all vulnerable and in some moment this vulnerability leads us to death. That's why we go to the doctor to see how my physical vulnerability is going; others go to a psychologist to cure some psychic vulnerability."

Pope Francis recounted in the homily how he meditated on this yesterday, in a lovely article that has come out in the Civiltà Cattolica Review, "which says that what we all have in common is vulnerability: we are the same in vulnerability."

"When Will I Die?"

The Holy Father reminded that it's necessary to prepare oneself well "for the moment that the bell will ring; the moment the Lord will call at our door," and he encouraged us to "pray for one another."

"Of all the things we have collected, that we have saved, legally good, we won't take anything," he reminded. "However, we will have the Lord's embrace. Think of your own death: when will I die? It's not marked in the calendar, but the Lord knows it." So, the Pope recommended that we pray to the Lord, saying: "Lord, prepare my heart to die well, to die in peace, to die with hope."



Advent Appeal 2019

As we enter into the season of Advent in preparation for the feast of Christmas we are encouraged to pray and also to act by doing practical things to help those in need. This is a very meaningful way for us to prepare for Jesus.

By supporting our annual Advent Collection you are able to provide the means for groups to continue carrying out works of service and mercy to those who are vulnerable and in need in our local community. In recent years your generosity has allowed the Advent collection to support services such as refugee support, the night shelter, hospice care for the dying and the providing of accommodation for families. I thank you for your support of the Advent appeal this year as in the spirit of Jesus we look to support those in our community who are in need.

+Michael Dooley
Bishop of Dunedin

NEXT WEEK

8 December Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

8 December Rosters

Greeters: Campbell Family (Alex); R Dyson (Roxb).

Projector: Volunteer (Omak); J Dunlay (Alex); A Compton (Roxb).

Altar Servers: Mika Tait, Taine Ballantyne, Alia Ryan (Alex).

Intro/POF: H Tait (Alex).

Readers: Joan (Omak); B Grubb (Alex); G Dyson (Roxb).

Offertory: Campbell Family (Alex); Robb Family (Roxb).

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: (Omak); C Grieve, F Clements, J Hogue (Alex); J McKinnel (Roxb).

Sacristan: J Hogue (Alex).

Cleaning: R McNally (Omak); (Alex); M Sale (Roxb).