



Diocese
of Dunedin

Alexandra Catholic Pastoral Area

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

www.alexatholic.nz

Parish Priest

Rev Fr Vaughan Leslie
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Presbytery

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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
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Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 October 2019; Year C / Weekdays Year 1

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 (side chapel)
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: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14;
Luke 17:5-10

Responsorial Psalm

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you, the Good News.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.



Died Recently

Anniversaries
Hector Anderton

Requiescant
in Pace

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING—Thurs, 10 Oct, 7pm in the side Alex church side chapel.

OASIS OPPORTUNITY SHOP—The Oasis shop is open Tues to Fri from 11am-3pm.

THE COMMUNITY PANTRY—The Community Pantry has been overwhelmed with the generosity of churches by supplying us with a plentiful supply of cereal, as requested. We do appreciate that we can continue to pass on good, nutritious parcels to those in need. Thankyou.
If you wish to contribute, some needs at this time are cereal/pottage, spreads, 2 Minute noodles, and tinned spaghetti/beans.

125TH OPENING ANNIVERSARY OF ST PATRICK'S BASILICA IN OAMARU

Saturday 9 Nov 2019. Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica at 6:30pm, followed by cutting of the cake, speeches and supper at the Moeraki Room, Brydone Hotel, Wear St, Oamaru. Tickets: \$10 pp for the after Mass event. Sunday 10 Nov 2019, 9:30am Mass, followed by Morning Tea in the Dean O'Reilly Lounge. RSVP: By 25 Oct for catering purposes. Parish Office (03) 434 8543 Email: oama-ru.basilica@xtra.co.nz



Venerable Suzanne Aubert: A missionary who made New Zealand her home.

At the beginning of the extraordinary month of Mission called by Pope Francis, we remember one of the great missionaries who came to New Zealand 150 years ago. Venerable Suzanne Aubert was just 25 when she responded to Christ's call to leave her native country of France and travel to New Zealand. Her mission was to answer God's call to bring the love of Christ to all people in Aotearoa New Zealand. She had a particular calling to serve Māori, and she became known to the tangata whenua as Meri Hohepa. She established the first soup kitchen in New Zealand still serving thousands of meals a year, homes for abandoned children and the severely disabled and a hospital to care for the sick and dying. Suzanne died here in Aotearoa New Zealand 94 years ago this week. For 66 years of her life she sought to reflect the compassionate face of Jesus to all she encountered.

Venerable Suzanne has already reached the second of four steps on her journey to sainthood. The findings of an inquiry held earlier this year to investigate an alleged miracle through her intercession are currently being examined in Rome. If Rome accepts that the miracle occurred through Suzanne's intercession, she can be beatified, and thus universally acclaimed as a true and humble follower of Jesus, inspiring us on our own journey or hiko of faith.

Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

On World Mission Sunday, October 22, 2017, Pope Francis publicly announced to the whole Church declaring an Extraordinary Missionary Month for October 2019 (EMM OCT 2019) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* – That Momentous.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For the month of October 2019, I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again.

The title of the present Message is the same as that of October's Missionary Month: Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World. Celebrating this month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism. Our filial relationship with God is not something simply private, but always in relation to the Church. Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we, together with so many of our other brothers and sisters, are born to new life. This divine life is not a product for sale – we do not practice proselytism – but a treasure to be given, communicated and proclaimed: that is the meaning of mission. We received this gift freely and we share it freely (cf. Mt 10:8), without excluding anyone. God wills that all people be saved by coming to know the truth and experiencing his mercy through the ministry of the Church, the universal sacrament of salvation (cf. 1 Tim 2:4; *Lumen Gentium*, 48).

The Church is on mission in the world. Faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see all things in their proper perspective, as we view the world with God's own eyes and heart. Hope opens us up to the eternal horizons of the divine life that we share. Charity, of which we have a foretaste in the sacraments and in fraternal love, impels us to go forth to the ends of the earth (cf. Mic 5:4; Mt 28:19; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:18). A Church that presses forward to the farthest frontiers requires a constant and ongoing missionary conversion. How many saints, how many men and women of faith, witness to the fact that this unlimited openness, this going forth in mercy, is indeed possible and realistic, for it is driven by love and its deepest meaning as gift, sacrifice and gratuitousness (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-21)! The man who preaches God must be a man of God (cf. *Maximum Illud*).

This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love. Even if parents can betray their love by lies, hatred and infidelity, God never takes back his gift of life. From eternity he has destined each of his children to share in his divine and eternal life (cf. Eph 1:3-6).

This life is bestowed on us in baptism, which grants us the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, the conqueror of sin and death. Baptism gives us rebirth in God's own image and likeness, and makes us members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. In this sense, baptism is truly necessary for salvation for it ensures that we are always and everywhere sons and daughters in the house of the Father, and never orphans, strangers or slaves. What in the Christian is a sacramental reality – whose fulfillment is found in the Eucharist – remains the vocation and destiny

of every man and woman in search of conversion and salvation. For baptism fulfils the promise of the gift of God that makes everyone a son or daughter in the Son. We are children of our natural parents, but in baptism we receive the origin of all fatherhood and true motherhood: no one can have God for a Father who does not have the Church for a mother (cf. Saint Cyprian, *De Cath. Eccl.*, 6). Our mission, then, is rooted in the fatherhood of God and the motherhood of the Church. The mandate given by the Risen Jesus at Easter is inherent in Baptism: as the Father has sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world (cf. Jn 20:19-23; Mt 28:16-20). This mission is part of our identity as Christians; it makes us responsible for enabling all men and women to realize their vocation to be adoptive children of the Father, to recognize their personal dignity and to appreciate the intrinsic worth of every human life, from conception until natural death. Today's rampant secular-



ism, when it becomes an aggressive cultural rejection of God's active fatherhood in our history, is an obstacle to authentic human fraternity, which finds expression in reciprocal respect for the life of each person. Without the God of Jesus Christ, every difference is reduced to a baneful threat, making impossible any real fraternal acceptance and fruitful unity within the human race.

The universality of the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ led Benedict XV to call for an end to all forms of nationalism and ethnocentrism, or the merging of the preaching of the Gospel with the economic and military interests of the colonial powers. In his Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, the Pope noted that the Church's universal mission requires setting aside exclusivist ideas of membership in one's own country and ethnic group. The opening of the culture and the community to the salvific newness of Jesus Christ requires leaving behind every kind of undue ethnic and ecclesial introversion. Today too, the Church needs men and women who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call to leave behind home, family, country, language and local Church, and to be sent forth to the nations, to a world not yet transformed by the sacraments of Jesus Christ and his holy Church. By proclaiming God's word, bearing witness to the Gospel and celebrating the life of the Spirit, they summon to conversion, baptize and offer Christian salvation, with respect for the freedom of each person and in dialogue with the cultures and religions of the peoples to whom they are sent. The *missio ad gentes*, which is always necessary for the Church, thus contributes in a fundamental way to the process of ongoing conversion in all Christians. Faith in the Easter event of Jesus; the ecclesial mission received in baptism; the geographic and cultural detachment from oneself and one's own home; the need for salvation from sin and liberation from personal and social evil: all these demand the mission that reaches to the very ends of the earth.

The providential coincidence of this centenary year with the celebration of the Special Synod on the Churches in the Amazon allows me to emphasize how the mission entrusted to us by Jesus with the gift of his Spirit is also timely and necessary for those lands and their peoples. A renewed Pentecost opens wide the doors of the Church, in order that no culture remain closed in on itself and no people cut off from the universal communion of the faith. No one ought to remain closed in self-

absorption, in the self-referentiality of his or her own ethnic and religious affiliation. The Easter event of Jesus breaks through the narrow limits of worlds, religions and cultures, calling them to grow in respect for the dignity of men and women, and towards a deeper conversion to the truth of the Risen Lord who gives authentic life to all.

Here I am reminded of the words of Pope Benedict XVI at the beginning of the meeting of Latin American Bishops at Aparecida, Brazil, in 2007. I would like to repeat these words and make them my own: "Yet what did the acceptance of the Christian faith mean for the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean? For them, it meant knowing and welcoming Christ, the unknown God whom their ancestors were seeking, without realizing it, in their rich religious traditions. Christ is the Saviour for whom they were silently longing. It also meant that they received, in the waters of Baptism, the divine life that made them children of God by adoption; moreover, they received the Holy Spirit who came to make their cultures fruitful, purifying them and developing the numerous seeds that the incarnate Word had planted in them, thereby guiding them along the paths of the Gospel... The Word of God, in becoming flesh in Jesus Christ, also became history and culture. The utopia of going back to breathe life into the pre-Columbian religions, separating them from Christ and from the universal Church, would not be a step forward: indeed, it would be a step back. In reality, it would be a retreat towards a stage in history anchored in the past" (Address at the Inaugural Session, 13 May 2007: *Insegnamenti* III, 1 [2007], 855-856).

We entrust the Church's mission to Mary our Mother. In union with her Son, from the moment of the Incarnation the Blessed Virgin set out on her pilgrim way. She was fully involved in the mission of Jesus, a mission that became her own at the foot of the Cross: the mission of cooperating, as Mother of the Church, in bringing new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith.

I would like to conclude with a brief word about the Pontifical Mission Societies, already proposed in *Maximum Illud* as a missionary resource. The Pontifical Mission Societies serve the Church's universality as a global network of support for the Pope in his missionary commitment by prayer, the soul of mission, and charitable offerings from Christians throughout the world. Their donations assist the Pope in the evangelization efforts of particular Churches (the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith), in the formation of local clergy (the Pontifical Society of Saint Peter the Apostle), in raising missionary awareness in children (Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood) and in encouraging the missionary dimension of Christian faith (Pontifical Missionary Union). In renewing my support for these Societies, I trust that the extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to the renewal of their missionary service to my ministry.

To men and women missionaries, and to all those who, by virtue of their baptism, share in any way in the mission of the Church, I send my heartfelt blessing.

From the Vatican, 9 June 2019, Solemnity of Pentecost
Pope Francis

NEXT WEEK

13 October Readings: 2 Kings 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13;
Luke 17:11-19

13 October Rosters

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

Projector: Joan (Omak); P Mulvihill (Alex); A Compton (Roxb).

Altar Servers: Dylan Wijetunga, Joshua Brown, Tara Mulholland (Alex).

Intro/POF: C Sawers (Alex).

Readers: P Cooney (Omak); M Tait (Alex); K Robb (Roxb).

Offertory: C Morris (Omak); A & J Kinney (Alex); N Taylor, A Favel (Roxb).

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Joan (Omak); J Parnhu, M Bennie, J Flannery (Alex); M Card (Roxb).

Sacristan: J Dunlay (Alex).

Cleaning: C Morris (Omak); (Alex); M Card (Roxb).