



Diocese  
of Dunedin

# Alexandra Catholic Pastoral Area

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

[www.alexatholic.nz](http://www.alexatholic.nz)

**Parish Priest**  
Rev Fr Vaughan Leslie  
Cell: 027 385 9615  
[frvupleslie@yahoo.com](mailto:frvupleslie@yahoo.com)

**Presbytery**  
7 Killarney Street  
Alexandra 9320  
Ph: 03 448 8202  
[alexatholic@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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**

**Principal**  
Mrs Trina Eastwood  
**Director of Religious Studies**  
Mrs Claire Dwyer  
**Board Chair**  
Mrs Kerrie Fahey  
Ph: 03 448 8339  
[office@stgerards.school.nz](mailto:office@stgerards.school.nz)



## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 September 2019; Year C / Weekdays Year 1

### MASS TIMES

#### Sundays

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

#### Weekdays

##### Alexandra

Tuesday 4:00pm (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  
(1<sup>st</sup> Fri of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec)

##### Roxburgh

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

Words and Music for Mass: All rights reserved ©  
Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-728215

### OTHER CENTRAL OTAGO PARISH SUNDAY MASS TIMES

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

**Cromwell** 11:00am (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sun)  
9:00am (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun)

**Wanaka** 9:00am (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sun)  
11:00am (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun)

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

**Arrowtown** 11:00am  
**Garston** 11:00am (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun)  
**Glenorchy** 11:00am (4<sup>th</sup> Sun)

**Sunday Readings:** Exodus 32:7-11,13-14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17;  
Luke 15:1-10

### Responsorial Psalm

I will rise and go to my father.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



### Died Recently

**Anniversaries**  
Sr Eleanor Pelvin  
Frank Graham  
Kath Kennedy  
Kathleen Collins

**Requiescant  
in Pace**

**TUESDAY MASS THIS WEEK WILL BE AT 4:00PM** to enable people to attend Dr Kleinsman's talk up at the School that same evening.

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



**DIRECTOR OF THE NATHANIEL CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS** Dr John Kleinsman is touring our Diocese from 16-20 September. John will be speaking to schools and parishes about the Nathaniel Centre's work and why it's important, as well as some of the current ethical issues on rights to life.

#### Tuesday 17 Sep - Alexandra

Alexandra Parish & St Gerard's School: Combined Teachers and Parish session at St Gerard's School **4:30-6:30pm** (held in the classrooms on Station Street).

**WEEKLY HOLY HOUR**—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament occurs in the Alexandra church of St John the Baptist each Friday, 11am-Noon (concluding with Benediction at 11:45am). Come along and spend some quiet time in prayer before the Lord.

**THE COMMUNITY PANTRY**—If you do wish to contribute, some needs at this time please be aware pantry is really short of cereal/porridge, spreads, 2 Minute noodles, tinned spaghetti and sugar. Many thanks.

**WANT TO RECEIVED THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?** Send the Parish an email ([alexatholic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alexatholic@xtra.co.nz)) and request to go on the mailing list.

**SICK PARISHIONERS**—If you're aware of any family or parishioners who are in hospital, a rest-home or homebound due to illness, please contact Fr Vaughan so that they can receive the Sacraments and pastoral care. Thank you.

COLLECTIONS & INCOME August 2019	
<b>Alexandra / Omakau</b>	
Parish	\$3,794
Alexo	\$ 56
Donations	\$ 750
Peter's Pence	\$ 20
Diocesan Needs	\$ 75
Annual profit / (loss) to date:	
	<b>\$8,004</b>
<b>Roxburgh</b>	
Parish	\$ 473
Roxo	\$ 72
Diocesan Needs	\$ 91
Annual profit / (loss) to date:	
	<b>\$ 7,993</b>
<b>Pastoral Area</b>	
Presbytery	<b>\$ 2,230</b>

# Faith Brings Syrian Teenager Through Dark Days of War

**Piter Essa, 17, graduated from High School in Aleppo, Syria**

13 September 2019—  
[ZENIT](#)



*Piter Essa, 17, graduated from High School in Aleppo, Syria, this spring. Piter, who is Syriac Orthodox, recounts to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) some of his painful experiences of the fighting of the past eight years:*

“I’ve survived this awful war, and I live my life like I used to. My school didn’t close at all, so I was able to continue with my studies; I graduated from High School this year.

“I was separated from many friends who were forced to flee. I personally experienced violence in the forms of mortars and missiles, which did physical and psychological damage. I tried to remain strong for my loved ones: I had their backs, and I told them that everything would be okay, but I didn’t fully believe that myself.

“I want to mention a particular about an incident, one of many similar incidents that happened during the war:

one day, I was helping my dad with the groceries, and we were walking and chatting in peace until a huge cloud of fire appeared in front of me. It was a mortar explosion. I heard nothing but screaming babies and a sharp whistle; I saw nothing but bodies, and there was blood everywhere. My father and I ran without looking back and only stopped when we reached a safe zone.

“In that moment, I wasn’t angry or sad. I was terrified. I hadn’t seen anything like it before, except in movies. It was horrible, and it stays with me even now. Sometimes I dream about that day—the innocent people being killed for nothing, absolutely nothing.

“Our saddest moment came when we had to leave our home. There were too many mortars falling around us, and we could not continue to risk our lives. So we moved to another area.

“Prayers helped keep me going, as did my family’s support; they provided



Alexandra Pastoral Area & St Gerard’s School

## TRIVIA BINGO

Wednesday

18th September 7pm

AT THE **CELLAR DOOR**  
Centennial Avenue, Alexandra

Teams of 1-3

\$10 per head

Nibbles and tea and coffee included,  
full bar available (cash/eftpos)

Come along for a fun Trivia Bingo evening  
and get to know each other in our Parish and  
School community!

Tickets on sale:

After Weekend Masses - Sunday 8th & 15th September

School Office - 9 - 13th September

NO DOOR SALES

for me and allowed me to live a ‘teenage’ life. My hobbies also distracted me from the violence: I listened to music all the time, as it offered an escape from what we were facing outside. And I wore a cross around my neck to remind me that, even when I felt lost, I was not alone.

“Today, I am feeling safe again. There’s been no mortars, missiles, explosions, or screaming, and my community is thriving. I’ve found true friends who understand and accept me as I am, and my family’s faith has endured. I love my country and its history. I feel connected to it.

“I plan to study abroad and become specialized in the area of Artificial Intelligence. I will return to Syria after. For me, the internet is an important communication tool: I use it every day, and I can see how other countries are reacting to our crisis. In my opinion, there are few countries that seriously care about us; many others only pretend to. I feel that most people aren’t responding.

“But I still have faith, and that was all that we had to survive. And I dream that one day, we will all be able to live in our country in lasting peace.”

### NEXT WEEK

**22 September Readings:** Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8;  
Luke 16:10-13

### 22 September Rosters

**Greeters:** Campbell Family (Alex); M McKinnel (Roxb).

**Projector:** S Tohill (Omak); P Mulvihill (Alex); M Sale (Roxb).

**Altar Servers:** Libby Hanford, Bella Donaldson, Dilan Wijetunga (Alex).

**Intro/POF:** K MacKenzie (Alex).

**Readers:** Joan (Omak); M Bennie (Alex); M Card (Roxb).

**Offertory:** W Donnelly (Omak); Campbell Family (Alex); Roos Family (Roxb).

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** R Kilkelly (Omak); C Grieve, B Mclean, J Hogue (Alex); N Taylor (Roxb).

**Sacristan:** J Hogue (Alex).

**Cleaning:** W Donnelly (Omak); J Kinney, C Closey (Alex); G Dyson (Roxb).