



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 Ellen Middendorf  
Ph: 03 448 8339  
[office@stgerards.school.nz](mailto:office@stgerards.school.nz)



## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 August 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 (church)  
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)

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### 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:** Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13;  
Luke 13:22-30

### Responsorial Psalm

Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;  
you bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer the heart.



### Died Recently

#### Anniversaries

Percy Johnson  
Gladys Waigh  
Conan Power

Requiescant  
in Pace

**SCHOOL MASS**—Wednesday 28 Aug at 9:00am; everyone welcome.

**ST GERARD'S SCHOOL IS ENTERING A FLOAT IN THE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL THIS YEAR.** We would really appreciate your help with this. We are looking for professional flower makers; the paper circles are available in the school office. Soon we would also love some help putting those flowers on. This is a great chance to work together as a parish and school community. Many thanks, Julie Flannery

**OASIS OPPORTUNITY SHOP**—This has relocated to the Centrepark Car Park in the former Video Ezy shop. Call in for a browse as they have a great selection of goods available. Sales from the shop support our Catholic Social Services. The Oasis shop will be open Tues to Fri from 11am-3pm. These hours will be extended in the near future.

**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

**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 ALEXANDRA BRANCH OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** has formally closed. The remaining three members wish to thank the parishioners who supported us over the many years with raffles, sales tables and other activities. Many thanks and God bless you all. Deirdre Jolly.

**THE COMMUNITY PANTRY**—If you do wish to contribute, some needs at this time are: tinned Spaghetti, Baked Beans, long-life milk, spreads and toilet paper. Also, person hygiene needs such as soap, toothpaste, etc., are always welcome.

### DOMINICAN FRIENDS. ANNUAL LUNCHEON FOR ALL

Saturday 14 Sep 2019, Ascot Park Hotel, 12 Middy. Please come from 11am to have time to chat beforehand. Cost \$25 Reply to [juliana.oconnell65@gmail.com](mailto:juliana.oconnell65@gmail.com) or phone 027 349 4121 by Mon 6 Sep.

# Alexandra/Omakau Parish Finance Committee Chair's Annual Report 2019

During the year the committee attended to these matters:

Removal of the old and decaying pine trees at Omakau church.

Integration of the Parish Hall to St Gerard's School, an option approved by the committee and subsequently Bishop Michael.

Access granted to adjacent property at Omakau church, completed at no cost to the parish.

Replacement vacuum cleaners purchased for the Alexandra church.

The Oak trees at Alexandra church have been trimmed because of safety issues.

Alexandra church storm water and sewerage drains have repaired after years of blockages.

Alexandra and Omakau Parish accounts have been merged into one operational account, [with savings for each centre being kept separate for respective capital works].

Investigation into the Alexandra church electrical upgrade including switch-board, heating and exterior lighting. Quotations will be finalized in the near future [application for assistance with the project from the Central Lakes Trust is being made].

Mr Doug Stanaway.

## Pope Francis Tells the 'Secret of Life' — Fix Your Gaze on Jesus & Get to Know Him

In Annual Message to 'Rimini Meeting,' Francis Reminds: "Looking at Jesus Purifies Our Sight & Prepares Us to Look at Everything with New Eyes"

19 August 2019 Deborah Castellano—ZENIT

The secret of life? ... Fix our gaze on Jesus' face and become familiar with Him.

Pope Francis shared this in a Aug. 17 message, sent on his behalf by Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, to the annual "Rimini Meeting." The Meeting for Friendship Among Peoples, sponsored by the Catholic Communion and Liberation Movement in Rimini, Italy, draws hundreds of thousands of participants every year.

The 40th Meeting, is convening Aug. 18-24, 2019, on the theme: "Your name was born from what you gaze upon."

In the message, the Holy Father speaks of how no one is anonymous to Christ and how he knows each of us and our dignity, profoundly. The Church has been announcing this truth to man, he stressed, for 2000 years. "Christ loved us, He gave His life for us, for each of us, to affirm our unique and unrepeatable face."

"But why is it so important that today, this announcement resound again?" he asked, responding: "Because so many of our contemporaries fall under the blows of life's trials, and find themselves alone and abandoned."

He lamented how so many are treated as statistics, as numbers, instead of as faces, as people, with names and stories. "We must never forget it, especially when the culture of waste marginalizes, discriminates and exploits, threatening human dignity."

"How many are forgotten and urgently need to see the face of the Lord in order to find themselves again!" he stressed.

If this is the case, he pondered: "what hope can there be in this world? How can man find himself, and hope?" He cannot do it only through reasoning or strategy, Francis acknowledged.

The Secret of Life

"Here then, is the secret of life, that which brings us out of anonymity: to fix our gaze on Jesus' face and

become familiar with Him," Francis stressed.

"Looking at Jesus," he continued, "purifies our sight and prepares us to look at everything with new eyes. Meeting with Jesus, looking at the Son of Man, the poor and the simple found themselves, they felt loved deeply by a love without measure."

In an age where people are often faceless, anonymous figures because they have no one to lay their eyes on, Cardinal Parolin reminded, the poetry of Saint John Paul II reminds us that we exist because we are in



'relationship.'

The Look, Which Opened His Heart, One Like Never Before

Pope Francis, the Vatican Secretary of State also reminded, loves to recall the original vocation of the Evangelist, St. Matthew, who was a tax collector.

"One day like any other," the Pope recalled once, "while he was sitting at the tax collection desk, Jesus went by and saw him. He came up to him and said: 'Follow me.' And Matthew got up and followed Him. Jesus looked at him."

"What a force of love the gaze of Jesus had, to have moved Matthew, as He did! What strength those eyes must have had, to make him stand up!"

Francis had recalled that Jesus stopped, did not pass by hastily, but looked at him like no one had looked at him before. "And that look opened his heart."

"This is what makes the

Christian a presence in the world different from all others, because it brings the announcement of which – without knowing it – men and women of our time, are most thirsty: the One who is the hope of life," Francis said. He noted that we will be "original" if our face is the mirror of the face of the Risen Christ."

Being mirrors of the Risen Christ's face, he said, will be possible if we grow in the awareness of what Jesus told his disciples: 'Rejoice rather because your names are written in heaven' (Lk 10:20-21).

Reason for Our Profound Joy

"This is the miracle of miracles," the Holy Father expressed, "This is the origin of the profound joy that nothing and no one can take away from us: our name is written in the heavens, and not for our merits, but for a gift that each of us received with Baptism."

Francis said we are called to share this gift with everyone, without exception. "This means being missionary disciples."

Pope Francis expressed his hope that the Meeting always be a hospitable place, where people can "have faces," and experience their own unmistakable identity. "It is the most beautiful way to celebrate this anniversary, looking forward without nostalgia or fears, always supported by the presence of Jesus, immersed in His body which is the Church."

His Holiness invoked the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary and, "from his heart," the letter read, sent his Apostolic Blessing to the Bishop of Rimini and everyone participating in the Meeting.

### NEXT WEEK

**1 September Readings:** Ecclesiasticus 3:19-21, 30-31; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14

### 1 September Rosters

**Greeters:** S Brouwer (Alex); A McElligott (Roxb).

**Projector:** S Tohill (Omak); J Fonseca (Alex); A Compton (Roxb).

**Altar Servers:** Bella Donaldson, Aurelia Lanham, Dilan Wijetunga (Alex).

**Intro/POF:** N Lanham (Alex).

**Readers:** L Van Boxtel (Omak); C Lanham (Alex); M Sale (Roxb).

**Offertory:** J Flannery (Omak); G & M Healey (Alex); M McKinnel & A McElligott (Roxb).

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

**Sacristan:** D Courtney (Alex).

**Cleaning:** J Flannery (Omak); (Alex); K van de Water (Roxb).