



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

**Acting Principal**  
Mrs Julie Flannery

**Acting DRS**  
Mrs Neroli Laidlaw

**Board Chair**  
Mrs Kerrie Fahey

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



## Third Sunday (Gaudete) of Advent

15 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 (church)  
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)

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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 35:1-6,10; James 5:7-10;  
Matt 11:2-11

### Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come and save us.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



### Died Recently

**Anniversaries**  
Heather McElligott

**Requiescant**  
in Pace

**END OF YEAR MASS FOR ST GERARD'S SCHOOL**—Tuesday 17 Dec, 5pm. Everyone welcome.

**ALEXANDRA CHURCH—DONATIONS OF FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**—donations of flowers to help decorate the church would be gratefully received; left in the back flower sacristy in buckets by Monday morning 23 Dec. if you would like to assist, please contact Jane Kinney 448 7879.

### 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](https://www.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.

### FAREWELL AND COLLECTION FOR FR VAUGHAN

The weekend 4/5 January 2020 will be the last Masses Fr Vaughan will be celebrating as our Parish Priest (appointed PP of Whanganui; Fr Sani Lam appointed PP of Alexandra Pastoral Area). He has requested that no formal farewell event occur, however, at the conclusion of all Masses that weekend there will be an opportunity for a few speeches.

As is the custom for departing clergy, a farewell collection is being taken up to present to Father for his 2-years of service in our Parishes and St Gerard's School. Cash donations and personal cards can be made by placing them in the Sunday collection baskets at Masses up until 5 Jan, in envelopes marked: Fr Vaughan's Farewell.

### 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

Wed 1 Jan New Year's Day  
9:00am: Clyde

**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)

# Burkina Faso: 'We Christians are persecuted, while the West remains indifferent'

Aid to Church in Need Interview with Bishop  
Justin Kientega of Ouahigouya

12 Dec—ZENIT

"There is an ongoing persecution of Christians. For months we bishops have been denouncing what is happening in Burkina Faso, but nobody is listening to us. Evidently they are more concerned with protecting their own interests." This was the reaction of Bishop Justin Kientega of Ouahigouya, in the northern central region of the country, following yet another attack deliberately targeting Christians in Burkina Faso, which took place on Sunday. Terrorists attacked a Protestant church in the governorate of Fada N'Gourma, close to the border with Niger, in the east of the country, killing 14 Christians.

"No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, just as no one claimed responsibility for the previous ones", the Bishop told ACN. "So we don't know whether it

is one group or several groups that are involved. What is certain, however, is that they are waging an Islamist campaign and trying to provoke a conflict between the religions in a country where Christians and Muslims have always lived peaceably side by side."

Bishop Kientega pointed out that the authors of these crimes are attempting to sow terror within the Christian community, not least in order to be able to seize their land and property. Following the violence, very many Christians have abandoned their homes and fled the area, and now there are thousands of internal refugees, for whom the Church is caring.

Since the beginning of this year over 60 Christians have been murdered in Burkina Faso, in the face of a seeming total lack of interest in the West. The Bishop explained how this indifference had been commented on during a recent meeting of the Bishops' Conferences of Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Ivory Coast and Ghana, in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. "We wondered how it could be possible that so many people know nothing of our situation and how Western governments and Western media are simply not making any mention of it. Evidently, many of the Western powers have an interest in seeing the violence continue, and their profits are more important than our lives."

Meanwhile, Christians in Burkina Faso are being increasingly targeted. And "the unprecedented level of insecurity", as Bishop Kientega describes it, is greatly limiting the field of action of the Church, whose priests can no longer travel to the villages to minister to their own Christian faithful.



Faced with this critical situation, Bishop Kientega has made a fresh appeal, via ACN, to the international community: "The world should look and see what is happening in Burkina Faso and the Western powers should stop those who are committing these crimes, instead of selling them the weapons that they are using to kill the Christians. We are being persecuted; but we retain our trust in the Lord and hope that all this may soon come to an end. Thank you to all of you for your prayers."

Join us in Celebrating  
Christmas 2019

Alexandra Community  
Christmas Day  
**BBQ LUNCH**

12 Noon Wednesday 25th December

**Free Event: All Welcome**  
St Enoch's Church Grounds  
12 Centennial Ave, Alexandra  
RSVP: Alexandra Community Advice Network  
448 7771  
Or Visit:  
[www.alexchurch.org.nz/christmas](http://www.alexchurch.org.nz/christmas)  
to register, volunteer or support



## 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

**CALLING ALL IRISH PEOPLE**, Irish community groups, people of Irish heritage or affinity with Ireland living in New Zealand.

The Embassy of Ireland in Aotearoa, New Zealand, has partnered with the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies who have designed two short surveys, that we hope, will assist in showcasing the rich Irish history we have in New Zealand, as well as the opportunities for future collaboration and connection.

You can access the surveys and more information at Friends of Ireland (<https://friends-of-ireland-nz.multiscreensite.com/survey>). If have any questions about these surveys please email [info@friendsofireland.co.nz](mailto:info@friendsofireland.co.nz)



## NEXT WEEK

**22 December Readings:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7;  
Matthew 1:18-24

### 22 December Rosters

**Greeters:** Ryan Family (Alex); R Dyson (Roxb).

**Projector:** Joan (Omak); J Dunlay (Alex); K Robb (Roxb).

**Altar Servers:** Sophie Tait, Alia Ryan, Tara Mulholland (Alex).

**Intro/POF:** J McLean (Alex).

**Readers:** J Paulin (Omak); H Tait (Alex); A Favel (Roxb).

**Offertory:** Ryan Family (Alex); E Reid & A Compton (Roxb).

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** J Paulin (Omak); C Grieve, J Flannery, L Fonseca (Alex); N Taylor (Roxb).

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

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