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**St Gerard's Primary School**  
Principal  
Mrs Julie Flannery

**Director of Religious Studies**  
Mrs Neroli Laidlaw

**Board Chair**  
Mr Nathan McLean



## First Sunday in Lent 18th February 2024

### Mass times

**Stations of the Cross (throughout Lent)**  
Fridays 5: 10 pm Alexandra

**Alexandra:**  
Tuesdays 5pm (chapel)  
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays  
9:00am (chapel)  
Friday 12. MD (chapel)  
Sundays 9.00 am (church)

**Roxburgh**  
**Caritas reflection programme** :after Mass each  
Wednesday (in the presbytery)  
Wednesdays 5:15pm (presbytery)  
Sundays 11.00am (church)  
Omakau:  
Saturdays Vigil Mass 6pm

### ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Alexandra (chapel)  
Fridays 11:00am  
11:45am (Benediction)

### RECONCILIATION

**Alexandra:** Saturday 11:30—Noon or by request

### ANointing OF THE SICK

Quarterly

**Alexandra** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri of the months of Mar, Jun,  
Sep, Dec @ noon

**Roxburgh** 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the months of Mar, Jun,  
Sept, Dec @ 5:15pm

### Today's Readings:

- Genesis 9: 8-15:** *I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh*
- 1 Peter 3 :18-22:** *The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*
- Gospel Mark 1: 12-15:** *He was tempted by Satan, and the angles looked after him.*

### Responsorial Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep your covenant

### Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory



Let us remember and pray for those who have  
**Died Recently**  
And for those who have

### Anniversaries

about this time

**Elizabeth Mackie OP**

### Requiescant

in Pace

### Thoughts about Lent: - Fr Brendan

**LENT:** The theme for the Caritas Lenten reflection programme is *'The Time is Now! Ko Tenei tonu te Wa'* The question that follows is 'Time for What?' ... Time for preparation, encounter, justice, sacrifice, truth, and time for hope. It is a time to renew our relationship with God and to consider practical ways we can be bearers of God's care to those around us.

**Almsgiving:** Support for the Bishops' Lenten appeal can be undertaken by using the purple Caritas envelopes available from the foyer tables. The envelopes can be returned through the weekly Offertory Collection or posted freepost directly to Caritas. Please include your contact details such as your name, address and email details so you can be sent a tax receipt. Alternatively, you can donate online by visiting [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz) and donate by credit card or make a direct transfer. Donations help fund both development and emergency relief work around the world. e.g. Cambodia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and Tonga.

**Prayer:** *'Prayer is the light of the soul, a mediator between God and man'* (St John Chrysostom). There are many ways to pray, involving listening, speaking, reflecting, and actions. i.e. Spending quiet time in an inspiring place (e.g. sunrise viewed from a hill top, or birdsong heard in the bush, or before the tabernacle in the church, ... ); Lighting a candle for a particular intention; Contemplating scriptural passages (e.g. Psalm 50(51); Putting ourselves in the place of people and situations as recounted in the Scriptures, such as Mary and Joseph finding the missing, youthful Jesus in the temple); Attending an extra Mass during the week; Reciting the Angelus or a Rosary or the Stations of the Cross; Choir singing; Reflecting on faith-inspiring art and scenes; Crafting one's own piece of art or music as an expression of praise, of seeking, etc; Reflecting on the life of a saint or a holy person and pondering on what made them the people of faith and charity they were; ....  
Continued over page.....

National  
Office for Professional Standards

Maria & Mike Noonan

Cell: 0212922753

[safeguarding@cdd.org.nz](mailto:safeguarding@cdd.org.nz)

Information can also be found on our website

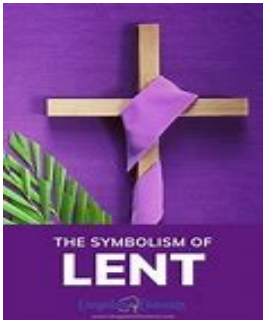
[www.alexatholic.nz](http://www.alexatholic.nz)

# Next Week's Roster and Readings

<b>February 24 &amp; 25th</b>	<b>Alexandra St John the Baptist Sunday 9am</b>	<b>Roxburgh Our Lady of Peace Sunday 11am</b>	<b>Omakau St Peters Saturday Vigil 6pm</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Glenda Chapman Dona Foley	Tony O'Driscoll	Volunteer
<b>OHP</b>	Mulholland Family	Lynette O'Driscoll	J Flannery
<b>Intro/ POF</b>	Tara Mulholland	Volunteer	Leo Van Boxtel
<b>Readers</b>	Kathleen O'Kane Margaret Bennie	Michelle Clarke	P Cooney
<b>Offertory gifts</b>	Coral and John Sawers	Neil and Rod	Volunteer
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Jeremy Hogue Julie Flannery Rosemary bond	Bill Clarke	Jill Paulin
<b>Sacristans Alex</b>	Margaret & Nicole (Set Up) Jim & Donald (Tidy Up)	-	-
<b>Altar Servers Alex</b>	CB: Georgie CH: Addie CB: Paige	-	-
<b>Church Cleaners</b>	Marie Paulin Carolyn Mackie	Kylie Robb	R Nolan

**Next Week's Readings:**  
2nd Sunday of Lent

1. Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18
2. romans 8: 31-34
3. Gospel According to Mark 9: 2-10



*Thought of the week....*  
*"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all, but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."*  
*Martin Luther*

**Parish Notices, News, Highlights**  
**St Dunstan's Church, Clyde:** Is now open daily for people to visit; (Thank you to Jackie and Steve Potter for managing). Also, thank you to Morgan Williams and the parish Centennial Committee for the new church sign out front.

**Vatican News: (www.vatican.va)** -Education, work, support to family keys to eradicate poverty; EU Justice and Peace Commissions appeal for diplomacy to end Ukraine war; International pressure grows for ceasefire in Gaza; Our food waste could feed all the hungry; Pop Francis pays tribute to Cardinal imprisoned for three decades; Sisters of Charity in the fight against poverty and prostitution..... Read in full on the site.

**This Week:**

**Friday 5:10pm** (note slightly later start): **Stations of the Cross** this and each Friday of Lent in Alexandra in the Church. Approx 20 minutes service.

**Coming Up.....**  
**CARITAS Reflection Programme: - Roxburgh**  
 Following 5:15pm mass each Wednesday in the Presbytery

**Parish Council Meeting—Wednesday 28th February @7pm**  
 The first meeting for 2024 will be in the side Chapel.

**World Day of Prayer—Friday 1st March at 9am:**  
 Our parish is leading the Ecumenical World Day of Prayer this year. "I beg You...Bear with one another in love" is this year's theme)

Lenten thoughts continued from page one.....  
**Fasting:** *'Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me – it is the Lord who speaks – to break unjust fetters and undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke, to share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, to clothe the man you see to be naked and not turn from your own kin? Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over.'* (Isaiah 58:7-9)

**Saint of the Week: St Peter Damian (1007 - 1072)**

Peter Damian was born in Ravenna in 1007 and studied theology and canon law, becoming a renowned teacher in both Parma and Ravenna. In his late twenties he abandoned all this and joined the hermitage of Fonte Avellana, near Gubbio, where he became prior in 1043: a position he held until his death. He strongly promoted the religious life in many parts of Italy. The Church at that time was in a terrible state and he supported the Popes in their efforts at reform, both by his writings and as a papal envoy. Pope Stephen IX named him a cardinal and Bishop of Ostia. He died on 21 February 1072 and was immediately acclaimed as a saint.

*St Peter Damian—pray for us*



**(International ) World day of Prayer**  
**Friday 1st March**

Observed on the first Friday in March each year, is a worldwide movement of informed prayer. It involves people of many denominations and languages in more than 170 countries.

Each year the service is written by women in a different country Who share the hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, opportunities and needs, of their country.

It affirms that informed pray and prayerful action are inseparable.

The logo depicts a cross, formed by praying figures from the 4 corners of the earth joined together within the circle of the world.

*Come along and pray with us Friday 1st March 9am*

