



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 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)



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

22 December 2019; Year A / Weekdays Year 2



### MASS TIMES

#### Sundays

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

#### Weekdays [this coming week]

##### Alexandra

Tuesday 9:00am (side chapel)  
**CHRISTMAS MASSES**  
Thursday 9:00am **NO MASS**  
Friday 12:00pm (church)  
Saturday 9:00am (side chapel)

##### Roxburgh

Wednesday 11:00am (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 11:00am (CHRISTMAS)  
(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 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7;  
Matthew 1:18-24

### Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A virgin will give birth to a son;  
His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



*Died Recently*

*Anniversaries*

*Requiescant  
in Pace*

**TUESDAY WEEKDAY MASS 24 & 31 DEC**—Please note that this Mass will be at 9am not 5pm for both dates (Christmas Eve and New Years Eve).

**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://facebook.com/adventjourney2019)

**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.

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS**—On sale now for \$12

**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)

## Christmas Blessings to You All



As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Nativity in a few days time, I wish to sincerely thank those in our Parishes who have generously given of their time, talents and energy over 2019. I have been just amazed how many parishioners actively give of themselves in service of others. I would like to thank you all by name, but I firstly fear I might miss someone out and secondly that I'd end up publishing the parish roll and be in breach of the Privacy Act! :-) Thank you everyone for all your efforts in making our Pastoral Area a wonderful faith filled Catholic community.

On a personal note, I've very much enjoyed my 2-years here and have greatly appreciated the wonderful support you've shown me; I'm not sure where the 2-years have gone as it just seems as if I only unpacked a few months ago and now everything is back on my trailer!

I'm sure you will all make Fr Sani Lam's move into the parish as your Parish Priest a very welcoming experience for him. He is a good man and I have no doubt he will continue the wonderful care you have received from all the previous clergy of the Pastoral Area over past years.

I wish you all a most enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and holiday season with friends and family. May the Lord, whose birth we honour, keep you all safe in his care.

God love,  
Fr Vaughan.

## A Nativity Scene Shows 'The Tenderness of a Family' in Bethlehem, Says Pope Francis

*The Image Spells 'Let's Let Mommy Rest'*

20 December 2019—[ZENIT](#)

Pope Francis referred to a photograph of a small Nativity Scene entitled "Let Mommy Rest," which shows "the tenderness of a family, of a marriage," he said.

During Wednesday's General Audience, held in Paul VI Hall on December 18, 2019, the Holy Father spoke about the photo of "a special Nativity Scene," which was given to him the day before for his birthday.

It's an image of the Holy Family that has gone viral on the Internet and social networks in recent days. It represents a manger in which the Virgin Mary is asleep and Joseph is lulling



the Baby Jesus to sleep.

"How many of you have to divide the night between husband and wife for the boy or girl crying, crying, crying, crying," said the Pontiff referring to the image.

The Pope's catechesis was dedicated to a reflection on the coming of Christmas, and he encouraged "the setting up of a Nativity Scene," to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, thus inviting Him to come into "our life."

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

**29 December Readings:** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14;  
Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

#### 29 December Rosters

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

**Projector:** R Kilkelly (Omak); M O'Connor (Alex); A Compton (Roxb).

**Altar Servers:** Dani Irving-Dowling, Aurelia Lanham, Taine Ballantyne  
**Intro/POF:** C Lanham (Alex).

**Readers:** L VanBoxtel (Omak); N Lanham (Alex); M Card (Roxb).

**Offertory:** Fahey Family (Alex); Dave & John (Roxb).

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** M Matheson (Omak); R Bond, C Grieve, L Fonseca (Alex); R Dyson (Roxb).

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

**Cleaning:** W Maclean (Omak); C Hill, A Rayner (Alex); E Reid (Roxb).