



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)



## Feast of the Most Holy Family

29 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)  
Wednesday 9:00am (Clyde)  
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 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:** Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14;  
Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

### Responsorial Psalm

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.  
Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



### Died Recently

### Anniversaries

Joseph Tohill  
Patrick Tohill

### Requiescant in Pace

**TUESDAY WEEKDAY MASS 31 DEC**—Please note that this Mass will be at 9am not 5pm (New Years Eve).

**NEW YEARS DAY MASSES**—These will be in the Church of St Dunstan, Clyde, 9:00am & Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh, 5:15pm.

**NEWSLETTER**—Please note the next newsletter will be published 2 Feb 2020 as there will be none during Jan 2020. Readings and rosters for Jan can all be found on the parish website:  
[www.alexatholic.nz](http://www.alexatholic.nz)

**FR SANI LAM** will celebrate his first Masses in the parish as PP for the weekend of 25/26 Jan (6pm Omakau, 9am Alexandra, 11am Roxburgh). **Please note** there will be no weekday Masses from 6-25 Jan, however, Sunday Masses (including the Omakau Vigil) will occur as normal with a visiting celebrant. Adoration will occur as normal on Fridays 10, 17 & 24 Jan, 11am-Noon.

**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.

**WANT TO RECEIVE 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.

### 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.

# Pope's 'Urbi et Orbi' Blessing

*'The Son is born, like a small light flickering in the cold and darkness of the night'*

25 December 2019—[ZENIT](#)

At noon today from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis addressed the following Christmas Message to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

—  
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:1)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Merry Christmas!

From the womb of Mother Church, the incarnate Son of God is born anew this night. His name is Jesus, which means: "God saves". The Father, eternal and infinite Love, has sent him into the world not to condemn the world but to save it (cf. Jn 3:17). The Father has given him to us with great mercy. He has given him to everyone. He has given him forever. The Son is born, like a small light flickering in the cold and darkness of the night.

That Child, born of the Virgin Mary, is the Word of God made flesh. The Word who guided Abraham's heart and steps towards the promised land, and who continues to draw to himself all those who trust in God's promises. The Word who led the Hebrews on the journey from slavery to freedom and who continues to call the enslaved in every age, including our own, to come forth from their prisons. He is the Word brighter than the sun, made incarnate in a tiny son of man: Jesus the light of the world.

This is why the prophet cries out: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:1). There is darkness in human hearts, yet the light of Christ is greater still. There is darkness in personal, family and social relationships, but the light of Christ is greater. There is darkness in economic, geopolitical and ecological conflicts, yet greater still is the light of Christ.

May Christ bring his light to the many children suffering from war and conflicts in the Middle East and in various countries of the world. May he bring comfort to the beloved Syrian people who still see no end to the hostilities that have

rent their country over the last decade. May he stir the consciences of men and women of good will. May he inspire governments and the international community to find solutions to allow the peoples of that region to live together in peace and security, and put an end to their sufferings. May he sustain the Lebanese people and enable them to overcome the current crisis and rediscover their vocation to be a message of freedom and harmonious coexistence for all.



May the Lord Jesus bring light to the Holy Land, where he was born as the Saviour of mankind, and where so many people – struggling but not discouraged – still await a time of peace, security and prosperity. May he bring consolation to Iraq amid its present social tensions, and to Yemen, suffering from a grave humanitarian crisis.

May the tiny Babe of Bethlehem bring hope to the whole American continent, where a number of nations are experiencing a time of social and political upheaval. May he encourage the beloved Venezuelan people, long tried by their political and social tensions, and ensure that they receive the aid they need. May he bless the efforts of those who spare no effort to promote justice and reconciliation and to overcome the various crises and the many forms of poverty that offend the dignity of each person.

May the Redeemer of the world bring light to beloved Ukraine, which yearns for concrete solutions for an enduring peace.

May the newborn Lord bring light to the people of Africa, where persistent social and political situations often force individu-

als to migrate, depriving them of a home and family. May he bring peace to those living in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, torn by continuing conflicts. May he bring consolation to all who suffer because of violence, natural disasters or outbreaks of disease. And may he bring comfort to those who are persecuted for their religious faith, especially missionaries and members of the faithful who have been kidnapped, and to the victims of attacks by extremist

groups, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.

May the Son of God, come down to earth from heaven, protect and sustain all those who, due to these and other injustices, are forced to emigrate in the hope of a secure life. It is injustice that makes them cross deserts and seas that become ceme-

teries. It is injustice that forces them to ensure unspeakable forms of abuse, enslavement of every kind and torture in inhumane detention camps. It is injustice that turns them away from places where they might have hope for a dignified life, but instead find themselves before walls of indifference.

May Emmanuel bring light to all the suffering members of our human family. May he soften our often stony and self-centred hearts, and make them channels of his love. May he bring his smile, through our poor faces, to all the children of the world: to those who are abandoned and those who suffer violence. Through our frail hands, may he clothe those who have nothing to wear, give bread to the hungry and heal the sick. Through our friendship, such as it is, may he draw close to the elderly and the lonely, to migrants and the marginalized. On this joyful Christmas Day, may he bring his tenderness to all and brighten the darkness of this world.

**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

**5 January Readings:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

### 5 January Rosters

**Greeters:** L Anderson (Alex); R Dyson (Roxb).

**Projector:** Volunteer (Omak); J Fonseca (Alex); G Dyson (Roxb).

**Altar Servers:** Alia Ryan, David Fonseca, Jelena Morrell

**Intro/POF:** A Delport (Alex).

**Readers:** P Cooney (Omak); R Bond (Alex); M Sale (Roxb).

**Offertory:** G & M Healey (Alex); M Card & M Sale (Roxb).

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Joan (Omak); B McAle-an, M O'Connor, L Fonseca (Alex); N Taylor (Roxb).

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

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