



Diocese  
of Dunedin

# Alexandra Catholic Pastoral Area

Omakau (1870) Alexandra (1924) Roxburgh (1950)



## Parish Priest

Rev Fr Sani Lam

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[sunctuslst@gmail.com](mailto:sunctuslst@gmail.com)

## Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Mr Pat Cooney

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## St Gerard's Primary School

School

Principal

Mrs Julie Flannery

## Presbytery

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## Finance Committee & Maintenance Team Chair

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Mrs Neroli Laidlaw

## Board Chair

Mrs Kerrie Fahey

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## 3rd Sunday of Lent. Year C 20th March 2022

### MASS TIMES

#### Sundays

Omakau 6:00pm Vigil (Sat)

Alexandra 9:00am

Roxburgh 11:00am

#### Weekdays

( 21st-26th Mar 2022)

#### Alexandra

Tuesday, 22nd 5:00pm (chapel)

Wednesday, 23rd 9:00am (church)

Thursday, 24th 9:00am (chapel)

Friday, 25th midday (church)

Saturday, 26th 9:00am (chapel)

#### Roxburgh

Wednesday, 23rd 5:15pm (presbytery)

### ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Alexandra (church)

Friday 11:00am—Noon

(11:45am Benediction)

### RECONCILIATION

#### Alexandra

Saturday 11:30am-Noon

(or on request)

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Quarterly

#### Alexandra

Friday Noon

(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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**Readings:** Ex 3:1-8. 13-15, 1Cor 10:1-6, 10-12, Lk 13:1-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

#### Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



### Died Recently

#### Anniversaries

Peter Chote

Kathryn Lucas

#### Requiescant

in Pace

### Catechism Theme: Suffering and the test of Faith (CCC 163-165)

Faith gives us the first taste of the afterlife. In faith, we have a vision of life with God. An existence in pure justice and, at the same time, pure mercy. We will know ourselves as we truly are, but through the divine eyes of Love.

This time on earth, however, is a time of test. Not just against evil. But for faith.

The problem of suffering presents us with such a test. Suffering is more than an intellectual puzzle to be solved. It challenges us to act. Either we reach out in the belief that God will help us on the path. Or, we fade into cynicism.

Others have walked the path of test before us. Abraham, Mary, and Jesus himself. If we only look to their example, we can find inspiration and real help.

Yes, suffering may shake us. But others have suffered and remained faithful.

So can we.

When we suffer, when others suffer, the choice of faith arises. Jesus used two reports of death to show the choice given. We might not know why suffering exists. But we can use suffering as a bridge to change. A chance to get closer to God.

As the parable of the fig tree implies, we not only have a choice. We have a helper. Someone to care for us during our struggles and our suffering.

Someone greater than we who came to serve us.... God does not abolish suffering to keep us at a distance. No, he allows suffering to bring us closer.

And so his Son may be revealed to all.

## To the parishioners of St John the Baptist Catholic Parish

Over the past couple of years, the Parish Council has tried on a few occasions to organize “*after Mass morning tea*” for parishioners to stay around after Mass for a catch up and a cup of tea or coffee – these have been partially successful and factors impacting on their success has been the weather and location.

We have limited control over the weather but we may be able to offer an alternative, warmer, and more sheltered option for the “*after Mass morning tea*” occasions.

A couple of parishioners have suggested to the Parish Pastoral Council that we rearrange some pews at the rear of the Church, thereby providing an indoor area within the Church for after Mass social occasions.

The Parish Pastoral Council does not currently have a view on this proposal but wishes to get some feedback from the parishioners as to whether there is support for such a change.

The suggestion is for pews in rows 2 and 3 to be removed from their present location (to be placed instead along the sides of the Church), with the pews in row 4 being turned around, facing the pews in row 1. That means that a “social gathering” area between rows 1 and 4 on both sides of the Church would be available for the morning teas, with a tea urn, crockery etc being placed in this area, enabling parishioners to stay indoors to enjoy a time to socialise and have a cuppa after Sunday morning Mass.

If there is some measure of support for this option, the Parish Pastoral Council will likely look to having a trial period to see how and if the proposal will work in practice. It is likely that if it was to go ahead, the trial would not start until the Covid-19 Protection Framework [traffic lights] went from Red to Orange at least.

To assist the Parish Pastoral Council in its consideration of the suggestion from the parishioners, would you please let us know as to whether you think that it would be a good idea to rearrange the pews in the rear of the Church to provide an area to parishioners to meet after Mass on a Sunday.

Would you please pass on your views to Fr Sani, Margaret Bennie (Secretary), or Pat Cooney (Chairman) so that the Parish Pastoral Council can then give further consideration to the proposal.

## Oasis Opportunity Shop

We have received a letter informing us that the premises we are operating out of has been re-leased at market rental rate. As per our Agreement we have 2 months to vacate. We have always understood that this was a possibility. We will organize a morning tea on Wednesday morning for our local team at the District Club on Wednesday 23rd March at 10am to discuss our options. We have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to use the building well below the market rental rate. If anyone knows of a building (parishioners) to rent please let us know.

Margaret & Barbara

### Bishops' Synod Survey

“Pope Francis wants to hear from you!” The bishops are using this direct papal message to invite people – Catholic or not – to take part in a survey for the ongoing international synod on the future direction of the Church. The survey is being advertised on Stuff and in social media such as Facebook, so you might see it pop up. Please share it with friends who may not be reached by your parish/diocesan Synod consultation. Details including a link to the survey: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-feedback/>

Thank you!

David McLoughlin

Communications Adviser, NZ Catholic Bishops

Conference

### NEXT WEEK

**27th March Readings:** Ex 3:1-8. 13-15, Cor 10:1-6. 10-12, Lk 13: 1-9

#### **26th-27th March Roster:**

**Greeters:** Rosalie Bennett (Alex), Rod Dyson (Roxb)  
**Projector:** Ruth (Omak); Martin O'Connor (Alex); Angela Compton (Roxb)  
**Altar Servers:** Olivia Delpport (CB), Stefan Delpport and Angel Bruce  
**Intro / POF:** Joan (Omak); Brian McLean (Alex); Volunteer (Roxb)  
**Readers:** J Paulin (Omak); Margaret Bennie, Amy Delpport (Alex); Kylie Robb (Roxb)  
**Offertory:** Volunteer (Omak); Neroli Laidlaw and Rosalie Bennett (Alex), Neil and Rod (Roxb)  
**Special Ministers:** Julie Flannery (Alex)  
**Sacristan:** Margaret Bennie, Jim Dunlay (Alex), Angela Compton (Roxb)  
**Cleaners:** W Donnelly (Omak), (Alex) Liyanarachchi family (Roxb)