



**NEWSLETTER for the
ALEXANDRA PASTORAL AREA
incorporating
St John the Baptist, Alexandra,
St Peter's, Omakau,
Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh,
St Dunstan's, Clyde,
and St Patrick's, St Bathans.
17 MARCH 2024
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

- (1) *Jeremiah 31:31-34* - The prophet Jeremiah explains how God will replace the Old Covenant of Judgment with a New Covenant of Forgiveness of sins, to be fulfilled, at least in part, through Jesus' life, death and Resurrection.
- (2) *Hebrews 5:7-9* - It is by Jesus' suffering and death, in obedience to his Father's will, that Jesus established the New Covenant.
- (3) *John 12:20-33* - The Gospel hints at the inner struggle of Jesus in accepting the cup of suffering to inaugurate the new and eternal Covenant. He accepts the cross as his "hour," meaning the stepping-stone to his passion, death, Resurrection and heavenly exaltation. Finally, his "lifting up" on the cross and passage to heavenly glory is God's assurance that our own sufferings and crosses are not futile, for Christ has intentionally and compassionately aligned himself with us.

Next week's (Palm Sunday) Scripture Readings:
(Intro) *Mark 11:1-10*; (1) *Isaiah 50:4-7*;
(2) *Philippians 2:6-11*; (3) *Mark 15:1-39*.

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: Create a clean heart in me O God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

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**R.I.P: Terrence Brosnahan
Anniversaries:**
Avis Campbell Dyson, William Welnoski,
Elizabeth McKive OP, Pat and Dennis
Flannery
May they rest in peace.

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS/SERVICE TIMES

Holy Thursday (March 28)
*7pm 'Mass of the Lord's Supper', St John the Baptist, Alexandra. (NB: No 9am Mass).

Good Friday (March 29), 'The Lord's Passion':
*9am Ecumenical Service at St Enoch's, Alexandra,
*3pm Passion service, St John the Baptist, Alexandra,
*3pm Passion service, Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh.



Easter Vigil 'Service of Light' Mass (Saturday March 30) NB: The 'Service of Light' Mass is the central Mass of the Church's liturgical year.

- *7:30pm, St John the Baptist, Alexandra. (NB: No 6pm vigil Mass at Omakau)
- *8pm, Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh. (NB: No 11am Mass Sunday morning.)

Easter Sunday Mass (Mar 31):
*9am, St John the Baptist, Alexandra.



Also - Inter-church Sunrise Service: 7:30am, Alexandra Lookout, Little Valley Road. All welcome.

PRE-EASTER SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (RITE I)

- Alexandra:**
*Thursday 21st, 7-8pm (Fr McGettigan)
*Saturday 23rd, 9:30-10:30am (Fr Ward)
- Roxburgh:**
* Sunday 24th after 11am Palm Sunday Mass (Fr McGettigan)
- Cromwell:**
*Wednesday 20th, 5-6pm (Fr Flannery)

An appropriate preparatory Psalm is Psalm 50: i.e. 'Have mercy on me God in your kindness ...'

LENTEN Devotions and Activities

- *Caritas Lenten reflection programme, Roxburgh presbytery, Wednesday 5:45-6:30pm,
- *Stations of the Cross, Alexandra, Friday 5:15pm.
- *Fasting: We go without regular food or drink of some kind to stand in solidarity with others who have no choice but to do so, and to encourage us

to consider how we can provide them with prayerful and practical help.

*Almsgiving: e.g. The *Caritas* Lenten envelopes (available from church foyers) may be used to support the work of *Caritas* in providing material support to isolated and disaster-affected peoples around the Pacific and beyond.



*Relationships are established and developed primarily through speaking and listening to one another. So it is with developing and nurturing faith; heartfelt expression and purposeful listening (i.e. Prayer) to the Spirit of God working in our lives and stirring within us is a necessary essential for a life of faith. i.e.

'Come Holy Spirit, make our minds to think, our ears to hear, our eyes to see, our mouths to speak, our hearts to seek, and our hands to reach out and touch the world with your care, your healing, and your peace.'

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CHRISM MASS: Wednesday 27 March, 10:00am, St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin. Bishop Michael will bless the Oil for anointing of the Sick, the Oil for Catechumens' (for those preparing for baptism) and consecrate the Oil of Chrism (used in Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordinations), for use across all parishes of the diocese throughout the coming year. Priests also undertake a renewal of their priestly promises. All welcome.

**ALEXANDRA PARISH CENTENNIAL
20-21st April this year.**

For planning purposes, please register promptly if you haven't already.

See Details on Parish website www.alexatholic.nz
Registration forms are also available in church foyers.

HELP WANTED: To deliver 'Hope' booklets across Alexandra letterboxes during Holy Week. An ecumenical initiative involving all churches. Just 1 hour for 6 people for our allocated streets, flexible time and day. Please see Fr Brendan.

SAINTS (GREAT) OF THE WEEK:

(1) St Patrick (17 March Feast day) - Born in Roman Britain at the end of the 4th century, he died in Ireland mid-400 AD. As a missionary bishop he endured many hardships and faced opposition even from his friends and fellow Christians. Nevertheless, he worked hard to conciliate, to evangelize, and to educate local chieftains and

their families. He is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, his humble trust in God, and for his kindly preaching of the gospel to the very people who had enslaved him in his youth.

(2) St Joseph (19 March Solemnity) - Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and raised Jesus. From the human character of his son we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers in general. To those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration. **'St Joseph, carer of Christ, guardian of God, pray for us.'**

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ANOINTING OF THE SICK: March, June, September, and December, first Friday Masses (noon) in Alexandra, and first Wednesdays (5:15pm) in Roxburgh.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Rite I). St John the Baptist, Alexandra, Saturdays 9:30-10am. Otherwise and elsewhere upon request. (see above for additional times before Easter.)

PASTORAL AREA MASS TIMES	Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass
St John the Baptist, Alexandra.	9am	Tues-Thurs & Sat: 9am Friday, Noon.
Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh	11am	Wednesday 5:15pm.
St Peter's, Omakau	Vigil, 6pm.	-

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Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward. 7 Killarney St, Alexandra 9320. Ph 03 448 8202 or 027 975 3272.

Parish Chairperson: Mr Pat Cooney. 027 768 9918

Finance Committee Chair: Mr Phil Peguero. 027 499 0277

Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu)

St Gerard's Primary Principal: Mrs Julie Flannery. 03 448 8339.