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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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 11th February 2024

Mass times

Ash Wednesday Mass

9am Alex & 5:15pm Roxburgh

Stations of the Cross (throughout Lent) 5pm Alexandra

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

Roxburgh
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
1st Fri of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec @
noon

Roxburgh
1st Wed of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec @
5:15pm

Today's Readings:

- Leviticus 13, 1-2, 45-46**
As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp
- 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1**
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ
- Gospel According to Mark 1: 40-45**
The leprosy left him and he was cured

Responsorial Psalm:

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble and
you fill me with the joy of Salvation

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us,
God has visited his people
Alleluia!



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

Anniversaries

About this time:

Yvonne Tohill

Nancy Millar

Eileen Oswald

Mary Patricia Truesdale

Lent is a 40 day period (excluding Sundays) of enhanced prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It commences on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Thursday of Holy Week, immediately before Good Friday and Easter Sunday. As athletes fine-tune themselves to be at peak fitness for their events, so Christians fine-tune themselves spiritually through **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** to be as well prepared as possible for celebrating Easter.

"Prayer is to the soul what air is to the lungs" eg Stations of the Cross each Friday of lent at 5pm in the Alexandra Church, praying the rosary, engaging with Christian hymns, reflecting on Christian art...

Fasting is the foregoing of some food, to help remind ourselves that Christ denied himself and sacrificed his own life for love of humanity. Further, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting (for ages 18 to 59) and abstinence from meat (for ages 14-59) and other Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from a desired food (not necessarily meat).

Almsgiving is to give of one's finances to aid those in need eg Donations via the Caritas Lenten appeal envelopes, obtainable from the church foyer—they can be returned in the offertory collection baskets over the following weeks.

Ash Wednesday (14 February) historically by the 4th Century AD people would publicly dress in sackcloth and be sprinkled with ashes as a gesture of repentance. By the 11th cen-

Next Week's Roster and Readings

February 17 & 18	Alexandra St John the Baptist Sunday 9am	Roxburgh Our Lady of Peace Sunday 11am	Omakau St Peters Saturday Vigil 6pm
Greeters	Bernie Harvey Nicole Heward	Rod Dyson	Volunteer
OHP	Delport Family	Kylie Robb	Jane
Intro/ POF	Brian McLean	Volunteer	Leo Van Boxtel
Readers	Kevin MacKenzie Addi Mulholland	Glen Dyson	Leo Van Boxtel
Offertory gifts	Barbara & Peter Clark	Angela & Averell	Volunteer
Special Ministers	Kathleen O'Kane Dona Foley Nicole Heward	Angela Compton	M Williams
Sacristans Alex	Margaret & Nicole (Set Up) Jim & Donald (Tidy Up)	-	-
Altar Servers Alex	CB: Varna Sim CH: Liberty Sim CB: Curtis Sim	-	-
Church Cleaners	Glenda Chapman Nicole Heward	Kylie Robb	R Nolan

Next Week's

Readings:

First Week of Lent
1. Genesis 9: 8-15
2. 1 Peter 3 :18-22

Thought of the week....

*"Live one day at a time;
make it a work of art."*

(J. Gilhooley)

This Week:

Today Sunday 11 February is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick,

In his message for the day Pope Francis says: "Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane."

Today is the:

Diocesan Education Appeal Collection

Thank you to those who are able to contribute.

MORNING TEA TODAY

Please Join us for a Cuppa and a Chat immediately after Mass
All Welcome

Wednesday 14th—Ash Wednesday

The beginning of Lent this year particular focus is given to the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten donation envelopes in support of the work of Caritas to aid people in need across the Pacific and wider afield are available in the Church Foyer. They can be placed in the weekly collection plate as we move through the Lenten period with your offering.

Mass times: 9am Alexandra, 5:15pm Roxburgh

Thursday 15th - Centennial Committee Meeting

4pm in the Side Chapel

Parish Notices and News

Congratulations!

to those who have celebrated recent wedding anniversaries, including Tony and Kathleen Fahey (60 years) and John and Valmai Breen (55 years).

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.

A Parishioner's Thought for Lent.

One thing I learned from my mum, Catherine, before I lost her when I was only 15 years old, was:

'If God has given you a talent, and especially if you have taken advantage of it for your own benefit, to, say earn a good income, you owe it to your maker, who bestowed that talent on you, to use some of your own time using that talent for the benefit of your fellow man.'

Phil Peguero - (thanks Phil for sharing your talents with us)

Saint of the Week: Paul Miki SJ

Born in Japan in 1564 he became a Jesuit Priest who preached with great effect to his own people. When a persecution of Catholics arose he was arrested with 25 others, mocked and tortured and eventually taken to Nagasaki where they were executed on 5 February 1597. Paul's parting words included the following: "My religion teaches me to pardon my enemies and all who have offended me. I do gladly pardon the Emperor and all who have sought my death! I beg them to seek baptism and be Christians themselves."



St Paul—pray for us

Thank you everyone who helped in any little way.....

Following the very happy celebration of Francisca and Peace's wedding a few weeks ago now, we have received a lot of positive feed-back on what a lovely celebration it was and how people saw it as an incredible gesture by a parish for their new parishioners. We have had to point out that the event was wonderful but just as wonderful was seeing our parishioners working together to make it all happen. It was also wonderful to have the use of our parish hall once again.

This week Donald Lamont received a letter from Francisca's older brother, from London who was not able to attend the wedding himself.

It reads as follows with a little creative editing popped in:

Hi Donald,

My sister (Francisca) told us (her family) how you organized people from your parish to sponsor and make their wedding glamorous. The Family is very pleased and excited by this show of love, recognition, hospitality and generosity.

My family has asked me to thank everyone including you, for this kind of pleasant gesture shown to Francisca and Peace. We are very grateful to Fr Sani, donors, invitings, the villagers, the parishioners for converting the earlier planner, small wedding into an epoch making event.

You really made us proud.

We say a Big Thank you!

Our appreciation is definitely not enough compared to what God worked through you for our family.

Our prayer is that God will replenish you (everyone who played a role) hundred folds and increase your strength beyond limits.

Thank you.

*Your brother in Christ,
Ikedichukwu Orji
On behalf of Francisca and Peace's families*



Who are the "Lepers in today's Society?"

How are destruction of the environment and increased poverty interlinked?

LS 157 - Francis says: "...the common good calls for social peace, the stability and security provided by a certain order which cannot be achieved without particular concern for distributive justice; whenever this is violated, violence always ensures. Society as a whole, and the state, in particular, are obliged to defend and promote the common good".

- Donna Peacock
(Diocesan LS Group)

Please Remember to register for our

PARISH CENTENNIAL

To be held over the weekend of
20-21st April 2024

Details on pariPsh website
www.alexatholic.nz

Registration forms also available in the foyer
100 years is worth celebrating!

Notices from Titipounamu

Study & Joy

Bible Stories - What do they mean?

Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.

Sundays, 03 Mar, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>

The Mystery of Miracles

Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm
\$25/session or \$80/series, incl. study material.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>

The Stations of the Cross - Reflections on Wood Carvings.

Available in English and Samoan. \$7 incl. postage

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/08/11/reflection-on-wood-carvings/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

