

01 FEBRUARY 2026

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



**ALEXANDRA
CATHOLIC
PASTORAL AREA**
[St John the Baptist
(1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's
(1928) Omakau;
St Dunstan's
(1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's
(1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace
(1910) Roxburgh]

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) **Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13.** *Before the Babylonian Exile (597BC) Israel tended to believe that those who prospered did so because of the Lord's blessing; those who did not must in some way be blameworthy. The Exile put an end to all that, and the verses from the prophecy of Zephaniah show the new and more satisfying analysis: it is the humble of the Lord who will receive divine blessing.*

(2) **1 Corinthians 1:26-31.** *The Corinthians seem to have been so pleased with themselves that Paul mercilessly lavishes his sarcasm on them. In their bravado and their complacency they were happy to rely on their own resources, and expected to be saved by them. Paul repeats to them the lesson of Zephaniah. The public reading of the letter must have embarrassed those at whom it was aimed, and the vigour of Paul's*

criticism was perhaps the reason why his relationships with this community continued to be stormy for some time. For us, however, the positive teaching is a treasure, that Christ is for us our wisdom, and our freedom.



(3) **Matthew 5:1-12.** *These eight blessings stand at the head of the Sermon on the Mount, pointing out eight ways in which we can welcome God into our lives and live out God's blessing. The first and the last knit them all together with 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. The evangelist Luke also begins his Sermon on the Plain with four such blessings – only his blessings are more on those who are materially poor and in need, whereas Matthew's blessings concentrate on the spiritual attitudes required of the Christian, to be 'poor in spirit' (i.e. humble) and to 'hunger and thirst for justice' (i.e. just and fair treatment of people).*

(Scripture commentaries are from the Universalis website.)

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

(1) Isaiah 58:7-10; (2) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
(3) Matthew 5:13-16

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Died Recently:

Anniversaries about now: Rose McKenzie; Bertrum Compton; Stephen Dallas; Caroline Dallas; Patricia Lockhart; Len O'Donnell.

'May they rest in peace.'

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MASS IN SPANISH: This Sunday, 6pm, at Our Lady of Peace church in Roxburgh. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding.

CHANGE OF MASS TIME THIS COMING FRIDAY, WAITANGI DAY: Being a public holiday, Mass will be at St Dunstan's, Clyde, at 9am. i.e. No noonday Mass in Alexandra.

NZ CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSN: The New Zealand Catholic Medical Association provides community support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, health administrators, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat and seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre, Auckland on March 20 and 21. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com (Gavin Abraham, Communications Manager, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference)

LETTER FROM BISHOP MICHAEL (14.01.26): In his letter to all parishes, Bp Michael puts the question "What sort of parish are we called to be? ... I also invite some of our parishes to consider some more practical proposals. ..."
Printed copies of the bishop's correspondence (5 pages) are available from the foyers of St. Peters, Omakau and Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh. A copy is available to read on the internal foyer windows of St John the Baptist church in Alexandra. Either takes photos of the pages with your smart phone, or for a digital copy email alexatholic@xtra.co.nz.
Parish Councils will spend time receiving parishioner feedback to the correspondence and discussing it over the next two months before replying to Bp Michael by this coming Easter, as he has requested.

