

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO THEOLOGY COURSES

2026: Papers can be studied in Dunedin or by distance learning on-line. See brochures and flyers in church foyers to enquire into what papers are available to study, and how to enrol. e.g. *Biblical studies; History; Ethics; Sacraments; Pastoral Theology;* For details of papers also see <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/> Enrol at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/>; For more information email theology@otago.ac.nz

ADVENT COLLECTION for THE CATHOLIC CARING FOUNDATION (CCF):

Over the season of Advent the annual collection for the Catholic Caring Foundation is held. The proceeds are used by Bishop Michael to support various charities in our diocese, including Southland and Otago Hospices, Pregnancy Help and the Night Shelter, the work of Catholic Social Services and the work of our prison, hospital and tertiary chaplains. For people not having Advent planned giving envelopes, to make an online donation search registered payees for 'Dunedin Catholic Caring Foundation'. Under 'particulars' please use your surname, 'code' your initials, and 'reference' CCF. Please email Pauline at paulinel@cdd.nz so a receipt can be issued.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Nicholas: He was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about mid-300AD. Long venerated throughout the Church because of his help to the poor, he is the patron saint of pawnbrokers. Over time, tales of his generosity and care gave rise to a tradition of leaving gifts for children on the night before Christmas. Hence the name 'Santa Claus', derived from 'Saint Nicholas'.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC):

Brochures are available from church foyers. Visit the website www.catholicdiscovery.nz for answers about the Catholic faith, and for provision of a range of free resources. All enquiries received in confidence.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.com):

***Finance boss: Think 'simplicity' to lower stress this Christmas.** Margaret Bearsley, chief executive of Anglican Financial Care, said that Christmas is one of the most joyous times of the year. However for many households it can also bring financial pressure. "Research shows that a growing number of New Zealanders rely on credit cards or 'Buy Now Pay Later' services to cover Christmas costs, leading to increased strain in the new year ... This Christmas, let's rediscover the joy of time spent together, and the peace of simplicity. By focusing on faith, family and gratitude, we can celebrate in ways that honour Christ and protect our financial well-being.

*** Visiting Lebanon, Pope Leo pleads for peace and justice,** and for a concerted effort by all Lebanese to build a better future for themselves and their families.

*** Churches and temples become relief camps in Sri Lanka,** providing emergency relief for thousands left stranded by the devastating cyclone.

***Prison chaplain calls for prayer support:** As the Jubilee of Prisoners approaches on December 13-14, Sean Ryan, a Catholic chaplain at Whanganui Prison, would like to see a groups to pray regularly for prisoners and for the work of chaplains. He says that prayerful support is definitely needed, adding that many prisoners are "desperate for change and, without realising it, are hungry for the Word of God".

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COLUMBAN CALENDARS for 2026: Available from church foyers; \$15 each. A great Christmas gift.

HUMOUR: I explained to my wife that husbands are like fine wines that improve with age. The next day she locked me in the cellar!!

SUNDAY MASSES

Omakau: 6pm Vigil (Saturday), at St Peters.

Alexandra: 9am, at St John the Baptist.

Roxburgh: 11am, at Our Lady of Peace.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Alexandra:

Tuesday: 5pm

Wed, Thurs, Sat: 9am

Friday: Noon

Roxburgh:

Wednesday: 5:15pm (in presbytery):

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RECONCILIATION (Rite I)

Alexandra: Saturdays 9:30-10am;

Otherwise on request.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

(March, June, September, December)

Alexandra: First Friday Mass, noon.

Roxburgh: First Wednesday Mass, 5:15pm, (in the presbytery)

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

Alexandra side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:45am.

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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.

Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.

Phone: 03 448 8202; 027 975 3272

Email: alexatholic@xtra.co.nz

Parish Council Chair: Kathleen O'Kane

St Gerard's Principal: Julie Flannery; 03 448 8339

Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free);

03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu). Also visit the website

www.catholicsocialservices.org.nz.

Parish Website: www.alexatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.

