

08 DECEMBER 2024

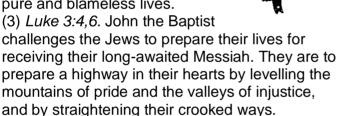
ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA [St John the Baptist (1924) Alexandra:

St Peter's (1932) Omakau: St Dunstan's (1903) Clyde; St Patrick's (1892) St Bathans: **Our Lady of Peace** (1910) Roxburgh]

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

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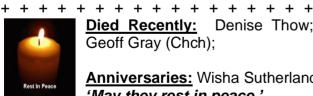
- (1) Baruch 5:1-9. The prophet Baruch invites the weeping Jerusalem to rejoice and go to high places to watch the return of the exiles. Baruch's prophecy announces the return of the whole human race to God.
- (2) Philippians 1:4-6,8-11. Paul advises the Philippians to prepare themselves for Christ's Second Coming by practicing Christian love and by leading pure and blameless lives.



NEXT WEEK (3rd Sunday of Advent):

(1) Zephaniah 3:14-18; (2); Philippians 3:4-7;

(3) Luke 3:10-18.



Died Recently: Denise Thow: Fr Geoff Gray (Chch);

Anniversaries: Wisha Sutherland 'May they rest in peace.' + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR. MCGETTIGAN: The noon Mass in Alexandra next Friday will be a memorial Mass of thanksgiving for Fr. Merv. It will also be a Mass with Anointing of the Sick, transferred from last Friday.

Fr Merv was originally from the Alexandra area. He was ordained in St John the Baptist church shortly after its completion in 1967. He served in various parishes across the Diocese of Dunedin and was well known to many people across the Central Otago district.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Alexandra:

*Tuesday 24th, vigil Mass at 5:30pm. (A children's Mass.)

*Wednesday 25th, 9am,

Omakau:

*Tuesday 24th, vigil Mass at 7:30pm.

Roxburgh: (5 Liddle St). *Wednesday 25th, 11am.

NB: Some Mass times have changed from those of past years, i.e. Please notify people you know who often holiday in the Alexandra-Omakau-St. Bathans-Clyde and Roxburgh areas over the Christmas holiday period of the changes. i.e. Phone, txt, email or write a letter.

COMBINED CHURCHES OF ALEXANDRA CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE 7pm, this Sunday evening, at the Alexandra Baptist Church, 6 Gregg Street. The service will be fairly simple. incorporating a mix of sung carols and Scriptural readings. Free entry; all welcome.

CARITAS RESOURCES ON THE TREATY

PRINCIPLES BILL: To see new Caritas resources on the Treaty of Waitangi and on the Treaty Principles Bill, go to https://www.caritas.org.nz/advocacy/treatyprinciples-submissions. (Sent to all bishops, priests, and parish administrators throughout NZ.)

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTING -LEARNING TOGETHER: This Wednesday, Dec 11th, at the rowing club and Clyde dam, From 10:30am onwards, Parents and grandparents welcome to join. Contact Energy are providing a BBQ lunch. There will be an opportunity for swimming, and to walk across the Clyde dam, for all interested.

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

* Pope: 'War does not solve problems'. Pope Francis has again stressed the need to pray for peace. "War is a human defeat," he reiterated. "War does not solve problems." Amid ongoing conflicts around the world, the Pope specifically prayed for "martyred Ukraine," Palestine, Israel, and Myanmar. He lamented how in each of these countries, there are "many children dead, many innocent people dead." "War is evil; war



destroys," warned Pope Francis. He renewed his call for peace, encouraging everyone to pray always. "Let us pray," the Pope said, "so that the Lord may bring us to peace."

- * Pope: Jubilee a chance 'to take stock of our lives'. "Jubilees are precious times for taking stock of our lives, both as individuals and as communities" says Pope Francis. He added that they are opportunities "for reflection, recollection, and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us today." (Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. giving voice to his desire for the year to foster a sense of global sisterhood brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment.)
- * John 8:44: A frequently misunderstood verse A reflection on Pope Francis' Letter to the Catholics of the Middle East.
- * 'War games' and the business of death. The latest report from SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) details the inexorable rise in arms sales and recalls Pope Francis constant warnings against 'playing at war.'
- * India's Bangalore Archdiocese offers safe shelter for migrants.
- * Michelangelo's Pietà shines again in Saint **Peter's Basilica**
- * Pope: Climate change impacts poorest and requires global cooperation
- * Pope at Audience: Homilies should be focused and no longer than 10 minutes.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.co.nz):

- * Notre Dame reopening offers 'shock of hope', says Emmanuel Macron
- * NZ Jewish community faces anti-Semitic threats, violence and abuse
- * Church leaders ask court to show cathedral arsonist mercy: (Palmerston North)

SAINT OF THE WEEK: *FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS (05 Dec): St. Nicholas, a 4th century bishop of Myra, (in modern-day south western Turkey), is the original, real, Santa Claus. Exactly how a kindly cleric from present-day Turkey got associated with a large, red-suited character with reindeer from the North Pole is difficult to figure out.

St. Nicholas was well known for his kindness and generosity, especially to the most needy. Because of this, he was linked with gift giving.

In contrast to the ideals and values that motivated St. Nicholas, the modern Santa is a commercial contrivance and a symbol for holidays. As we move into the holiday season with its hustle and bustle, we remember that love and joy don't just magically appear. They are a

fruit of us looking to be, through our words and actions, as St. Nicholas was.

BIBLE DIARY 2025 This daily prayer resource with thought-provoking reflections, including Saints of the Day, covering 2025 can be ordered through Sr Leona Garchow (021 209 5811) or Jill Paulin (021 254 3739), by Wednesday 18th December please.

WANTED TO BUY: An old smartphone or iPhone to record music onto and play from. For use at Mass at Omakau. Please contact Fr Brendan if vou can assist.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2025: Are available for purchase from church foyers. \$15 each; please place in envelope supplied. Great Christmas presents. Pages by month exhibit classic religious art with an accompanying explanation.

SUNDAY MASSES

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Omakau, St Peters: (Saturday) 6pm Alexandra, St John the Baptist: 9am Roxburgh, Our Lady of Peace: 11am.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Alexandra:

Tuesday: 5pm Wed, Thurs, Sat: 9am Friday: Noon



Roxburah:

Wednesday 5:15pm (in presbytery):

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + **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

presbytery)

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

Alexandra side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:50am.

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Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.

Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra. Phone: 03 448 8202, or 027 975 3272

alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz Email:

Parish Council: Mr Pat Cooney; 027 768 9918 Finance Chair: Mr Phil Peguero; 027 499 0277 St Gerard's Principal: Mrs Julie Flannery;

034488339

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

03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu).

Parish Website: www.alexcatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.