

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 greater sense of global sisterhood and 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 you 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.

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SUNDAY MASSES	
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	
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 presbytery)	
EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION	
Alexandra side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:50am.	
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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS	
Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.	
Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.	
Phone: 03 448 8202, or 027 975 3272	
Email: alexatholic@xtra.co.nz	
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.alexatholic.nz	
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz	