

ALEXANDRA CHURCH HEATING: Advice has been received to have the church heaters turned on from 5am to 10am during the winter months. For those particularly vulnerable to the cold, the side chapel heat pump and heater will also be on during the 9am Sunday Mass. Further, the choir loft is a little warmer due to its height. In general, wear multiple layers of warm clothing and solid footwear with thick woollen socks. Bring rugs if you wish. The wearing of beanies or other warm hats would be prudent and appropriate. If you wear mittens or gloves it would be best to remove them when it comes time to receive Holy Communion, then to put them back on afterwards. -Fr Brendan.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Sudanese bishops appeal for peace amidst escalating conflict and humanitarian crises. "This is not simply a war between two generals, as the military has inextricably embedded itself in the economic life of the country. Both warring factions have networks of wealthy elite Sudanese and international individuals and cartels who benefit from their control of various economic sectors and are linked to external sponsors who provide them with increasingly sophisticated weapons, such as drones." (4.7.24)

First millennial saint: Approval has been given for the canonization of the first Saint from Generation Y (those born between 1981 and 1996, commonly known as millennials). Blessed Carlo Acutis was born to Italian parents in London, England, in 1991. He died from leukemia at the age of 15 in Monza, Italy. He was known for his devotion to Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions, which he catalogued on a website he designed. He was "welcoming and caring towards the poorest, and he helped the homeless, the needy, and immigrants with the money he saved from his weekly allowance." (01.07.24)

Pope hopes to visit Turkey in 2025 for 1700th anniversary of Council of Nicea: "It is a trip I wholeheartedly desire to make," the Pope said as he greeted a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. In conjunction with Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis said "Present events have shown us the necessity and urgency of praying together for peace, so that war may end, the leaders of nations and the parties in conflict may rediscover the path to concord, and all parties come to recognize one another as brothers and sisters." (28.06.24)

RECONCILIATION and GRACE (from the meeting on Reconciliation with parents and children after the 9am Mass last Sunday):

"Where sin abounded, grace abounded even more." (Romans 5:20)

"You are merciful to all, Lord, because you can do all things and overlook people's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists; you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence." (Wisdom 11:24-25)

Further: *"A person can shoot an arrow a few furlongs, but repentance reaches even to the throne of God."* (Jewish saying)

Hence, Grace can be simply explained as God's healing and life-giving presence for us, in whatever way that it may be encountered.

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SUNDAY MASSES	Weekday Mass
St John the Baptist, Alexandra, <u>9am</u>	<u>Alexandra:</u> Tuesday 5pm. Wed, Thur & Sat 9am. Friday, noon.
Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh, <u>11am</u>	<u>Roxburgh:</u> Wednesday, 5:15pm
St Peter's, Omakau, 6pm vigil (Saturday)	

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

March, June, September, and December, first Friday (noon) in Alexandra, and first Wednesdays (5:15pm) in Roxburgh.



RECONCILIATION (Rite I):

Saturdays 9:30-10am in Alexandra. Otherwise upon request.

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

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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS	
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Diocese News: Go to https://www.cdd.nz	