



**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]

21 July 2024

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

(1) *Jeremiah 23:1-6.* The prophet Jeremiah (600 B.C.), thunders against Israel's careless leaders (the king, some priests and court prophets) because of their neglect of the poor. He foretells the rise of a new, good shepherd in the family-line of David, and consoles the Israelites enslaved in Babylon, assuring them that God will restore them to their homeland.

(2) *Ephesians 2:13-18.* Jesus is spoken of as the shepherd of both the Jews and the Gentiles, who has reconciled humanity with God. He is the divine self-sacrificing act of reparation, compensation, and restitution for humanity's sins.

(3) *Mark 6:30-34.* Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise given through His prophet Jeremiah in the first reading. We see Jesus attending to the needs of the weary apostles, who have just returned, jubilant, from their first preaching mission, while at the same time expressing concern for the people who, like "sheep without a shepherd," have gathered at their landing place in the wilderness.

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) *2 Kings 4:42-44*

(2) *Ephesians 4:1-6*

(3) *John 6:1-15*



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DIED RECENTLY: Fr Maurice White; Jennifer Kennedy.

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen and Stan Pelvin; Barry Frewan; Gerard Waith; Fr Brian Fenton.
 'May they rest in peace.'

MASS READERS WORKSHOP: For a half hour after the 9am Mass at Alexandra this Sunday 21 July. Led by Sr Leona Garchow. New readers very welcome.

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In partnership with the Tindall Foundation, the Diocese of Dunedin invites applications for grants that will support families and social services in the Diocese. Applications relating to the following are particularly welcome:

- Young children
- Youth development
- Literacy, numeracy and budgeting skills
- Māori
- Migrant and refugees
- Rural communities

Grants are available up to a maximum of \$7,000.
 Applications close on 9 August 2024.
 The application form is available on-line at www.cdd.nz/grants or by contacting Pauline Lee on (03) 4745750 or paulinel@cdd.org.nz.

PARISH NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST:

To receive a digital copy of the parish newsletter please email your contact details to alexatholic@xtra.co.nz. The parish website is www.alexatholic.nz.

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NZ NEWS: (1) ROYAL COMMISSION FINAL REPORT ON ABUSE IN CARE. This coming Wednesday 24 July marks the end of over six years work for the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. The Royal Commission has been holding hearings and investigating events from 1950 to today. Starting early in the year 2018 with a consultation process, the Inquiry was required to make various reports and provide a final report with findings and recommendations. That report was delivered to the Governor General on 25 June 2024. This coming Wednesday, the Minister of Internal Affairs will table the report in Parliament.

(2) Bishop Michael Gielen of Christchurch has informed his fellow NZ bishops and Christchurch parishioners that, after an investigation and having received a report from the Vatican into alleged abuse and unauthorised exorcisms, he is “removing the faculties of the priests of the Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer to exercise sacred ministry in the Christchurch Diocese. Any ministry its priests carry out after Sunday 14 July will be unauthorised and liturgical celebrations will be illicit.” Subsequently, Bishop Michael Dooley of Dunedin Diocese has written to his own clergy declaring that the same order of priests “will not receive faculties in his diocese to celebrate Mass or the sacraments.” (CathNews 17 July).

structures raised suspicion and opposition from many quarters. Bonaventure effectively defended the Franciscan Order and was elected general of the order in 1255. He is regarded as the second founder of the Order, after St Francis of Assisi.

He declined appointment as archbishop of York in 1265 but was made cardinal bishop of Albano in 1273. He died a year later in 1274.

Bonaventure wrote extensively on philosophy and theology, making a permanent mark on intellectual history; but *he always insisted that the simple and uneducated could have a clearer knowledge of God than the wise.* He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (Vatican News)

(1) The President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Timothy Broglio, has implored people to rise above their divisions after the recent Donald Trump attack, insisting that people need to respectfully disagree with one another always out of respect for one another's human dignity.

(2) Venezuelan bishops urge citizens to vote in crucial presidential elections and to not abstain from the polls, to help build a better future for the country that has suffered great economic and social hardship over the last decade.

(3) The UN seeks a path to unity as Cyprus marks 50 years of division since a coup aimed at uniting Cyprus to Greece triggered a Turkish invasion that divided the island in 1974. (16 July)

(4) Indian Catholic bishops have met with Prime Minister Modi to voice their concern over increasing anti-Christian violence in the country. The delegation presented the leader of the Hindu nationalist Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) with a memorandum lamenting the increasing attacks carried out on Christians under the false pretext of forced conversions. (July 15)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (from the psalm used at Wednesday's Mass):

'The Lord will not abandon his people'

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| SUNDAY MASSES | Weekday Mass |
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| 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.

| PARISH CONTACT DETAILS | |
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| Parish Priest Fr Brendan Ward. Ph: 03 448 8202, or txt 027 975 3272. Office Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz. | |
| Parish Chairperson Mr Pat Cooney; 027 768 9918. | Finance Committee Mr Phil Peguero; 027 499 0277. |
| Catholic Social Services 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu) | St Gerard's Primary Principal Mrs Julie Flannery; 03 448 8339. |
| Parish Website: www.alexcatholic.nz | |

SAINT OF THE WEEK - St Bonaventure.

Feast day 15 July: Bonaventure was born in Central Italy about 1218. He became a Franciscan friar in 1243 and studied philosophy and theology at the University of Paris. At the time the friars were still a new movement in the Church and their embracing of poverty and rejection of institutional