



**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]

28 July 2024

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

(1) *2 Kings 4:42-44*. The prophet Elisha, by invoking God's power, fed one hundred men with twenty barley loaves. Elisha relied not on what he had but on what God would do with what the Prophet had received as a gift.

(2) *Ephesians 4:1-6*. Jesus united the Jews and the Gentiles by bringing them together as Christians, in *one Faith* by means of *one Baptism* to become one community, living together, helping each other, and sharing their blessings.

(3) *John 6:1-15*. Jesus' miraculous feeding of the five thousand people, using five barley loaves and two fish offered by a boy in the crowd through the apostles, is associated with the Holy Eucharist early in the Church's tradition. That is why it is described in all four gospels, and it is why the second century Christians used this miracle in their catacomb wall drawings. The people who had been fed immediately gave Jesus two Messianic titles: "*The prophet*" and "*the one who is to come.*"

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) *Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15*.

(2) *Ephesians 4:17, 20-24*

(3) *John 6:24-35*. (The Bread of Heaven.)



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DIED RECENTLY:
 Kathleen DONCASTER.
ANNIVERSARIES:
 Andrew KINNEY; David
 STANAWAY; Pat CURRAN.
 'May they rest in peace.'

PARISH NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST:

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

FOOD BANK DONATIONS: Thank you to all who provide goods to the Foodbank basket at Sunday Mass. Such support is a great aid to helping families make do over winter.

DIOCESAN INFORMATION and TOPICS: To inform oneself about diocesan matters enter 'cdd.nz' in an online search engine such as Safari or Google. Then select the relevant topics of interest from the menu bar at the very top of the diocese's webpage. e.g. Under the heading 'About Us' are the topics *Chaplaincies, Financial Statements, Grants Applications, Parish Norms, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Policies, Strategic Plan, and Vocations*. Under the heading 'We Offer' are the topics *Becoming Catholic, Catholic Social Services, Ecology, Justice and Peace, Liturgy, Marriage and Family Life, Online Masses/Resources, Synod 2021-2023, and Young People*. Under the heading 'Safeguarding Resources' are the topics *Complaints and Concerns, Abuse and Harm, Courses, Newsletters, and Te Ropu Tautoko*. There are further headings on 'Education', 'News', and 'More'.

CHILDREN'S FIRST RECONCILIATION: This coming Wednesday twelve children aged between 7 and 12 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.



Please keep them in your prayers.

*Modern-day secular 'Wellness' and 'Wellbeing' movements stress the importance of forgiveness. "*Research has shown that forgiveness is linked to mental health outcomes such as reduced anxiety, depression and major psychiatric disorders, as well as with fewer physical health symptoms and lower mortality rates. ... Forgiveness allows you to let go of the chronic interpersonal stressors that cause us undue burden.*" (American Psychological Assn)

* From the start to the finish of his ministry Christ was concerned with healing people of their ailments.

* He disclosed that the most important form of healing is forgiveness of sin. (*Luke 5:17-26*)

* Christ left a means through which people could avail themselves confidently of his forgiveness. (*John 20:21-23*).

WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING – Tuesday July 30TH - (From Caritas NZ):

The Trafficking in Persons Report, or TiP Report, is an annual assessment of how well countries around the world are doing in regard to combatting human trafficking. Countries are ranked at four different levels, with Tier One being the best. New Zealand was ranked at Tier One for 17 years. However, for the last four years we have received only a Tier Two ranking.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing global crime; NZ does not have effective legislation and support systems in place to help those currently being trafficked and to prevent future cases of exploitation. Caritas NZ is calling for amendments to be made to NZ's Crimes Act to recognise that proof of coercion or deception is not necessary to prosecute someone for child trafficking and exploitation, as is set out in International Law.

When Jesus raised a young girl to life he said 'Talitha Kum' which means 'Little girl rise up'. This captures the intention of the Talitha Kum organisation, which seeks to enable new lives for those who experience modern slavery and human trafficking. If you wish to help, write to your local MP to support the establishment of a national referral mechanism to ensure cases are reported and survivors of exploitation receive the help they need. For more information contact talithakumdunedin@gmail.com.

PRAYER/SCRIPTURE REFLECTION on the upcoming Sundays readings, 4.15pm, Tuesday, with Sr Leona at 60a Shannon St. All welcome.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK– Joachim & Anna:

An ancient tradition, already known in the 2nd century, gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anna became popular in the 6th century in the East, and in the 10th century in the West; Joachim was added a long time later.

“At the moment of consenting to the Incarnation Mary took the most important decision ever taken by any human being, and the fact that she took it is, to a great extent, the work of her parents. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to take the decision; but her training by her parents’ Joachim and Anna gave her the wisdom to choose. ... Those who

have children seek to bring them up to the best of their ability, to meet challenges that, like Anna and Joachim, they sometimes have no way of even imagining.” (Reflection from the Universalis website)

SIDE-CHAPEL & KITCHENETTE HEATING:

To help mitigate the freezing of water pipes in the kitchenette of the Alexandra church and to enable faster raising of the temperature of the side-chapel when required for use, the heat pump is left on permanently at 10C over the colder months. i.e. Please do not turn the heat pump off over this time. Also, please leave open the side door into the kitchenette and keep firmly closed the sliding glass doors between the side-chapel and the main body of the church. All help to optimise temperature control is much appreciated.

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

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

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



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 | |