



**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]

**04 August 2024**

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY**

(1) *Exodus 16:2-4,12-15.* Moses and Aaron had led their people out of slavery in Egypt. But the lack of food in the wilderness led the people to complain against the two of them. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens.’ And it came about.

(2) *Ephesians 4:17,20-24.* St. Paul advises the Ephesians to satisfy their spiritual hunger by living renewed lives of love, kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.

(3) *John 6:24-35.* Jesus makes the unique, bold claim, “I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

**SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY**

(1) *1 Kings 19:4-8*

(2) *Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2*

(3) *John 6:41-51*



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**DIED RECENTLY:** Colleen NORMAN; Fr Benito VELASCO  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** John KILKELLY; Errol HEALEY; Josephine LAMONT; Betty WOODHOUSE; Fran TAYLOR; Catherine SCHMIDT; Richard ALTERBURG.  
 ‘May they rest in peace.’

*\*Please note\**

**No 5pm Mass this coming Tuesday**  
**in Alexandra**

**9am Mass this coming Wednesday will include**  
**children and staff from St. Gerard’s, in the**  
**main body of the church. Hearters will be on**  
**but rug up well also.**

**SAINT OF THE WEEK– St Mary of the Cross**

**(aka St Mary McKillop, 1842-1909):** Mary was born in Melbourne, the eldest child of poor Scottish emigrants, Alexander and Flora MacKillop. To help support her family she worked as a nursery governess and store clerk while still in her teens. Schooled privately and by her father she undertook private tutoring of other children, becoming a teacher in 1862. She felt a call to the religious life, but felt obligated to continue teaching to help support her family. However a scandal caused by an education official gave her reason to leave the school with her family’s backing.

Mary and her sister moved to Penola. There she met Fr Julian Tennison Woods with whom she opened a Catholic school for the poor, and in 1866 co-founded the *Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart*, Australia’s first religious order, specifically for the education of poor children in remote areas. The order received episcopal approval in 1868; she soon had seventeen schools under her care.

Her independence and social ideas concerned Church authorities and she was ordered by her bishop, who believed some exaggerated stories about Mary, to turn over control of the schools and her order. She refused, and was subsequently excommunicated in 1871. Mary was crushed, but she prayed that some good would come from the action, and suffered through it. The bishop apologized in 1872, and returned her to full communion.

She visited the Pope in 1873 and travelled through England, Ireland and Scotland to seek funds for her schools. Back in Australia she travelled from house to house, working for improved education for the poor and improved general conditions for Aboriginal people. In 1897 she visited southern NZ and placed three of her Sisters in a small cottage in Hertford St, Arrowtown, from which they taught local children. The cottage, now a historic places building, can still be visited today, beside St Patrick’s church.

Her Josephite order continues its work with hundreds of Sisters in Australia, New Zealand and Peru. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on 17 October 2010, the first Australasian saint. Her feast day is this coming Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**VATICAN NEWS ([www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)):**

(1) In his prayer intention for the month of August, Pope Francis invites the faithful to join him in prayer “that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking

caring of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poorest. ... Politics is one of the highest forms of charity because it seeks the common good," he said. The Pope acknowledges that "politics does not have a very good reputation." Nonetheless, politics properly so-called – as opposed to "politicking" – "listens to what is really going on ... and is much more noble than it appears." So, he says, as we pray for political leaders, we should also be grateful "for the many politicians who carry out their duties with a will to serve, not of power, who put all their efforts toward the common good."

(2) Philippine Bishops offer 4 recommendations to combat human trafficking: "We must pray and take immediate action to combat child trafficking, safeguard vulnerable groups and provide support to victims, support policy reforms and improve law enforcement." The appeal was made by Bishop Ruperto Cruz Santos, Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

(3) Church in Canada desires reconciliation with indigenous people to become 'lived reality'.

(4) Young Zimbabweans showcase exceptional musical talent, making history as the gold medal winner at the 13th international edition of the World Choir Games held in New Zealand.

(5) Pope thanks circus workers for the smiles they bring to people's faces.

**LOCAL NEWS ([www.cathnews.co.nz](http://www.cathnews.co.nz)) 29 July:**

(1) New Zealand's new Apostolic Nuncio is Archbishop Gábor Pintér. He will also serve as Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific. The Apostolic Nuncio is the Pope's chief diplomatic representative – the equivalent of an ambassador. Archbishop Pintér is currently the Apostolic Nuncio to Honduras. He was born in Hungary in 1964 and ordained a Catholic priest in June 1988. He has a doctorates in Theology and Canon Law and speaks Hungarian, Italian, English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Swedish, and Haitian Creole.

(2) Catholic leaders have condemned a segment of the Paris 2024 Olympics opening ceremony parodying the Last Supper, labelling it a "gratuitous insult to the Eucharist". French bishops deplored the scenes, saying that "While the ceremony was a marvellous display of beauty and joy, rich in emotion and universally acclaimed", they also said it "unfortunately included scenes of mockery and derision of Christianity which we deeply regret. We would like to thank the members of other religious denominations who have expressed their solidarity with us".

**DIOCESAN INFORMATION and TOPICS:**

To inform oneself about diocesan matters, search online at '[cdd.nz](http://cdd.nz)'. 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'.

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

**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.

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