



**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]

11 August 2024

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

- (1) *1 Kings 19:4-8.* Elijah the prophet, physically and spiritually hungry, is nourished by the Lord and strengthened for the long journey of “*forty days and forty nights,*” to Mount Horeb where God instructed him to continue his holy work.
- (2) *Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2.* Paul reminds the Ephesian Christians that, instead of seeking satisfaction in the stale food of anger, slander, bitterness, and malice, they are to nourish one another with the spiritual food of compassion, kindness, and mutual forgiveness.
- (3) *John 6:41-51.* Jesus reveals himself as the true “*Bread of Life that came down from Heaven,*” to give life to the world. But some of Jesus' followers are incredulous and turn away from him.

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

- (1) *Proverbs 9:1-6*
- (2) *Ephesians 5:15-20*
- (3) *John 6:51-58*



DIED RECENTLY: Dave COYLE;
Paul KELLY.
ANNIVERSARIES: Frank KINNEY;
Pat KELLY; John STORY;
Rose ALEXANDER
‘May they rest in peace.’

SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

Preparatory presentation for parents and candidate children after the 9am Mass next Sunday 18th August, in the side chapel of the Alexandra church.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SINGAPOREANS

here in Central Otago, who celebrated on Friday 59 years since the founding of their republic (09 August 1965). 5.9 million people; Multiracialism is enshrined in the constitution, comprising peoples of Chinese (74%), Malay (14%), Indian (9%), and other (3%) origins. 31% are Buddhist, 19% Christian, 16% Islam, 9% Taoist, 5% Hindu, 20% no religion. There are four official languages: English, Malay, Tamil and Manadrin. A diverse and inclusive society.

LETTER FROM BR MARK MCKEON (FSC), DE LA SALLE BROTHER IN BETHLEHEM, ISRAEL:

“I was disappointed to be unable to make it south to visit you in Alexandra last Sunday and preach at Mass of my experience of living and working at Bethlehem University, which is in the West Bank in Palestine, just seven kilometres from Jerusalem. It is administered by the De La Salle Brothers and is the only Catholic University in Palestine. Since October 7 we have experienced the impact of the war. There are no pilgrims coming to Bethlehem and as a result there is a lot of poverty. Hotels are closed and the local olive shops are doing it tough. Students have a difficult time getting to University each day because of the increased number of checkpoints and potential attacks by armed settlers. A journey which used to take 30 minutes now takes two hours. While we are relatively safe at the University, we experience nightly incursions into the three refugee camps in Bethlehem by Israeli soldiers. The number of Christians in Palestine is decreasing by the day as people look to obtain visas to welcoming countries. Please pray for us. The next time I am in the Church of the Nativity I will remember your parish community. Peace.” Brother Mark.

YOUTH 2000 DUNEDIN RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024:

Open to all young adults aged 18-35, this retreat features a range of activities including workshops, praise and worship sessions and opportunities for deep prayer and reflection and fellowship. To learn more about the activities planned and to register and secure your spot, scan the QR code on the notice in the church foyer. Join us for a weekend that promises to nourish your soul and strengthen your faith!

**DIOCESAN-WIDE
PLANNED GIVING CAMPAIGN**

Over the next three weeks there will be a different 2-minute video message from Bishop Michael played after Communion encouraging us to consider how we can support our parish and diocese with our financial giving. Next Sunday there will also be a brochure given out which provides specific information about the finances of our parish/pastoral area. Thank you for giving this your attention.

A FREE FRIDGE-FREEZER AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE NEEDING ONE: Fisher & Paykal, 140cm high, 64 cm wide, 64cm deep. See Fr Brendan, by this coming Wednesday please.

PRAYER-SCRIPTURE STUDY on next Sunday's readings: This coming Tuesday, 4.15pm to 4:45pm, with Sr Leona at 60a Shannon St. All welcome.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION (15 August, this coming Thursday): The commemoration of the death of the Blessed Virgin Mary is known as the Assumption because of the tradition that her body did not decay but that she was raised up, body and soul, into heaven. This tradition was already present in the early Church; by the beginning of the twentieth century it was widespread; and after consulting the views of bishops all over the world, the Pope formally and infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption to be part of the authentic and ancient doctrine of the universal Church. (*Reflection from Universalis website*) (Note: A solemnity is a feast day of the highest ranking in the Church, celebrating a mystery of faith such as the Trinity, or an event in the life of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary or important saints. The observance begins with the vigil on the evening before the actual date of the feast.)

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

(1) *Zimbabwean Bishops' Denounce Arrests:* "Recently, we have seen the wanton arrests of citizens under frivolous charges. Some of the arrested have been denied bail. Surely, even those who 'have committed crimes' deserve to be treated in a just manner. They cannot be denied their fundamental rights. Here, the adage, 'justice delayed is justice denied,' rings

true. Let us safeguard the human rights enshrined in our Constitution," reads the Bishops' Statement.

(2) *Pope Francis offers message of hope to Chinese Christians* saying 'China is a great people that must not waste its heritage ... It is a faithful people who have gone through many things and remained faithful.' He repeated his desire to make an apostolic visit to China.

(3) *The government of Nicaragua exiles seven priests to Rome.*

(4) *Democratic Republic of the Congo bishops urge respect for a new ceasefire deal.*

(5) *Israel orders more Gaza evacuations.*

(6) *Archbishop of Canterbury calls for peace amongst UK riots.*

(7) *Pope to Knights of Columbus: 'Pray for peace and work to build a "civilization of love."*

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

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.
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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
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz | |