



**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]

25 August 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

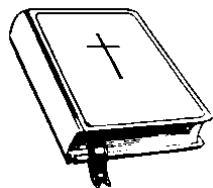
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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Joshua 24:1-2,15-18.* Joshua challenges the Israelites to decide whether they will serve the gods their ancestors served from beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose country they are presently dwelling, or the one true God who brought them out of slavery.

(2) *Ephesians 5:21-32.* St Paul challenges the Ephesian Christians to make the right choices in life and build Christian marriages on mutual respect and love, accepting each other's rights and dignity.

(3) *John 6:60-69.* Today's passage describes the various reactions of the people to Jesus' claims to be the Bread from Heaven, the Bread of Life. Many of the disciples leave, but the apostles freely choose to stay with him. As St Peter said: *'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'*



READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8
James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

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Died Recently:

Anniversaries: Stan PELVIN; Marina PESSIONE; Errol HEALEY; Gladys WAIGHT; Conon POWAR.

May they rest in peace.

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St GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWS:

*Mass this coming Wednesday, 9am, in the main body of the church.

*Cross country sports, this coming Wednesday, 1pm, at the Rail Trail area across the Manuherikia bridge.

DAFFODIL DAY: Cancer is a widespread and common disease which many families these days are affected by, directly and indirectly, young and old. Support for the work of the Cancer Society occurs this Friday at various donation points around the district.



Further: The regular noon Mass this coming Friday will commence at 12:10pm, in the main body of the Alexandra church, to also give working people an opportunity to attend in memory of people who have died of cancer, or to pray for those suffering from it now. Also, an opportunity to light a candle as an act of prayer for any-and-all so affected will be available in the church (at the candle tray under the Marian statue, front right-hand-side) throughout the day from 7am to 6pm.

ROXBURGH PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING: This will be held the week after next. Please raise any matters of interest with Fr Brendan or Rod and Glen Dyson over the coming week.

A FREE FRIDGE-FREEZER: See Fr Brendan if you, or someone you know, could do with one.

MANA ATUA is a recently released documentary that highlights the transformative power of God in people's lives. Lucky Te Koha was a man plagued with anger, addiction, violence and crime. This gritty documentary captures some of Lucky's story and his mission to bring healing and hope to the community he knows best, the gangs of Aotearoa. See the trailer below at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UouHZ1hI7UQ>.

The Christian Churches of Alexandra are together supporting screenings of this documentary at Central Cinema in Centennial Ave. The film has a limited screening window so people need to get a ticket to avoid missing out. It is mature content so not suitable for Children. The film length is 1:39. Screening days and times are as follows:

- 2pm Tuesday 27 August;
- 7:30pm Friday 30 August;
- 7:30pm Friday 06 September;
- 11am Tuesday 10 September.
- 7:30pm Tuesday 10 September.

Tickets are free, but must be booked online via the following link:

<https://alexchurch.org.nz/index.php/mana-atua/>

Invite a friend. If you sign up but your plans change, please pass on your ticket to someone else. Donations towards the cost of screening are welcome.

ALEXANDRA PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: Discussion of Centennial projects has settled upon (1) rejuvenation of the church front sign to read 'St John the Baptist Catholic Church'; and (2) the street-front sign will be renewed with current wording and times but supported by two poles within a schist pillar and with centenary plaque attached.

WHEELCHAIR AVAILABILITY, ALEXANDRA: If required during Mass or another liturgy, a restored wheelchair is available for use from the First Aid cupboard, left-hand-side of the church.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: Pope St Pius X (1835-1914).

Born near Venice, one of ten children of a very poor family. Ordained a priest in 1858; against his wishes he was elected Pope in 1903. He campaigned for the freedom of the Church from State control, while at the same time barring clergy from leadership of social organizations and the holding of political offices, whether of the Left or of the Right. He commenced the revision of the code of Canon Law, founded an institute for scriptural studies, initiated the revision of the Latin translation of the Bible, and reform of the liturgy.



Since the Middle Ages it was the norm for laity to receive Communion only annually, each Easter. In 1905 St Pius recommended the daily reception of Holy Communion by all the faithful 'in an appropriate state of grace, who have the intention to be more closely united with Christ by charity, and who undertake careful preparation beforehand and appropriate thanksgiving afterwards'. He also lowered the age when children receive their First Communion 'to about seven', the age 'when a child begins to reason'.

He lived in great poverty. Given his simplicity and goodness of heart the clamour for his canonization started immediately after his death on 20 August 1914, reportedly broken-hearted at the outbreak of the First World War.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

* Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari has awarded the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz award to Cardinal Joseph Coutts, Archbishop emeritus of Karachi, in recognition of his fostering of dialogue among various religious communities and promoting social welfare and minority rights in Pakistan.

* Christians comprise 47% of religious people migrating internationally, due to economic factors, political instability, and conflict. Muslims are the second-largest religious grouping, at 29%.

* Following the arrest and expulsion of many priests the Nicaraguan government recently revoked the legal status of another 1,500 non-governmental organizations, transferring their assets to the State, and is to tax all Churches on offerings and donations: The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed "deep concern," stating in a communiqué that the Nicaraguan government's initiative effectively "threatens freedom of religion and freedom of association," and called for the "guaranteeing and protection of fundamental freedoms" of individuals.

DIOCESAN-WIDE PLANNED GIVING CAMPAIGN

This week, the last of three, the bishop explains the financial situation of the diocese and offers some ways we may be able to help meet local parish and diocesan needs. The brochure given out last Sunday presented facts and figures. Thank you for your support for your local parish and to our Diocese.

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| SUNDAY MASSES | Weekday Mass |
|---|--|
| St John the Baptist, Alexandra, <u>9am</u> | Alexandra:
Tuesday 5pm.
Wed, Thur & Sat 9am. |
| Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh, <u>11am</u> | Friday, noon.
Roxburgh: |
| St Peter's, Omakau, <u>6pm</u> 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.
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
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz | |