



**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]

01 September 2024

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

- (1) *Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8.* Religion is a relationship with a caring, providing, and protecting God, fostered by keeping His Commandments given through Moses.
- (2) *James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27* St. James defines true religion as keeping the word of God and doing God's will by helping the needy, the poor, and the weak in the community. He challenges Christians to become doers of the word, not merely hearers.
- (3) *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.* Jesus describes true religion as serving God and all God's children with an undistracted and holy heart. He criticises the Pharisees for emphasising external piety at the expense of internal holiness.



READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

- (1) *Isaiah 35:4-7;* (2) *James 2:1-5;* (3) *Mark 7:31-37*

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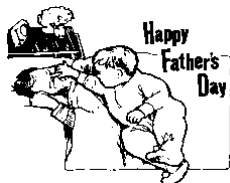


Died Recently: Tony GARE
Anniversaries: Jim BURTON, Eileen VAN DE VOORT, Catherine MCGETTIGAN, and Angela GIBBONS
May they rest in peace.

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'HAPPY FATHERS DAY' to all Dads.

"Heavenly Father, bless all fathers of our parish, and fathers everywhere. Help them to be good role models and grant them confidence in the raising of their children. In return may they receive their children's respect, admiration, understanding, support, and love. Amen."



St GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWS:

*Twelve children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation had a class last Wednesday that focussed on the taking of a saint's name to complement their initial Christian name given them by their parents.

* A Fathers' Day lunchtime b-b-q was held at school on Friday for dads of St Gerard's pupils.

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

- (1) This coming Wednesday, 5:15pm in Roxburgh;
 (2) This coming Friday at noon in Alexandra. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding.



MANA ATUA is a powerful documentary that highlights the transformative power of God in people afflicted with anger, addiction, violence and crime. The Christian Ministers Association of Alexandra is sponsoring further screenings of this documentary at Central Cinema in Alexandra on:

- Friday 06 September at 7:30pm;
 Tuesday 10 September at 11am and 7:30pm.

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

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

The film is mature content so it is not suitable for children. The length is 1:39. Donations towards the cost of screening are welcome.

SAINT OF THE WEEK - Pope St Gregory the Great

(540-604): Born in Rome, the son of an aristocratic family. He entered civil service, finally becoming Prefect (cf Attorney General) of the City of Rome for some years. He founded a monastery in Rome and some others in Sicily, then became a monk himself. He was sent as an envoy to Constantinople for five years.

On 3 September 590 he was elected Pope, the first monk to be so. He reformed the administration of Church estates and devoted the resulting surplus to the assistance of the poor and the ransoming of prisoners; he negotiated treaties with the Lombard tribes who were ravaging northern Italy; he sent monks as missionaries to England in 596, providing them with continuing advice and support; he wrote extensively on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals. He died on 12 March 604, but as this date always falls within Lent, his feastday is celebrated on the date he was elected Pope.

ROXBURGH PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING: This coming Tuesday. Please raise any matters of interest with Fr Brendan or Rod and Glen Dyson beforehand.

YOUNG PEOPLE 2000 DUNEDIN RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024: Open to all 18-35 year olds, this retreat features workshops, praise and worship, personal prayer and reflection. Connect with your faith and meet others in a supportive environment. To register, by 31 August please, go to <https://www.facebook.com/youth2000dunedin/> or janice.c@tutanota.com. Thank you. *Sr Maria Ann, Little Sisters of the Poor.*

PLANNED GIVING CAMPAIGN – From Bishop

Michael: ‘Thank you to all who have responded so positively to our recent Planned Giving campaign. It has been many years for most parishes since planned giving has been promoted and this is the first time we have had a diocesan-wide promotion. These past three weeks we have reflected on the important place the Church has in our lives. We have also been able to provide some clarity around the income required to enable our parishes to be sustainable and to thrive. Thank you for the many ways that you support the life of the Church in this diocese and in your parishes.’ +*Michael Dooley*

(If you wish to review or join in Planned Giving please complete the brochure handed out recently or obtain a copy from church foyers. Then either email a completed copy to alexatholic@xtra.co.nz or place the brochure in the Offertory collection basket at Sunday Mass. Giving is tax deductible (for NZ residents). Thank you. -*Fr Brendan*)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

- Pope Francis decries indifference in the face of migrants who die crossing deserts and seas in search of a better life, and calls for a global system of governance based on justice and solidarity. He pointed out that most of these deaths could have been prevented, decrying the people “who systematically work, using all means, to push back migrants.... And when this is done consciously and responsibly, it is a grave sin,” he said. Pope Francis concluded his reflections by praising the work of “so many good Samaritans who dedicate themselves to helping and saving injured and abandoned migrants along these routes of desperate hope, on all five continents. ... Even if we cannot be on the frontlines”, he concluded, “each of us can contribute in their own way to this ‘fight for civilization’ with our prayer.”
- Pope appeals to Bishops to keep hope alive amidst escalating Middle East tension and asks them to continue their mission of peace and reconciliation.
- On the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 August), Pope Francis says it is a "moral duty" to stop the production and trafficking of drugs and calls for prevention efforts. He

reiterated that drug use impoverishes communities, and inflicts grave harm on every level of society. "Faced with the tragic situation of drug addiction of millions of people around the world, faced with the scandal of the illicit production and trafficking of such drugs," the Pope demanded, “we cannot be indifferent.”

- Singaporean nuns bring hope to conflict-ridden Myanmar
- Nigerian bishops warn that situation in the country is explosive
- On September 2nd Pope Francis will begin his longest and most demanding Apostolic visit, traveling to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY: To Maureen S-----Y who was ?? on Thursday.

HUMOUR: The Bishop asked the Monsignor, "How was my homily?" The Msgr: "You were brief." The Bp: "I try never to be tiresome. The Msgr: "You were tiresome too."

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

RECONCILIATION (Rite I)

Saturdays 9:30-10am, Alexandra church. Otherwise upon request.

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

Fridays, 11:30-11:50am, Alexandra church side chapel.

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SUNDAY MASSES

Omakau, St Peters: 6pm (Saturday)
Alexandra, St John the Baptist: 9am
Roxburgh, Our Lady of Peace: 11am.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Alexandra: Tuesday 5pm
Wed, Thurs, Sat: 9am
Friday Noon

Roxburgh: Wednesday (in presbytery): 5:15pm

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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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St Gerard’s Principal: Mrs Julie Flannery 034488339
Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free);
03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu).
Parish Website: www.alexatholic.nz
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz