



**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]

**15 September 2024**

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY**

(1) *Isaiah 50:5-9*. The prophecy of Isaiah contains four interrelated poems (songs) on the Servant of the Lord, who willingly undergoes suffering and humiliation for his ministry to the Lord. Jesus' own sayings on service and suffering show that he was aware of these songs, and that he saw himself as this Suffering Servant.

(2) *James 2:14-18*. As the psalms say 'No one can buy their own ransom.' All we can do is hang on to God's promises, put our trust in God's limitless forgiveness, and act with similar generosity and forgiveness towards one another. Otherwise, what is the point of good works?

(3) *Mark 8:27-35*. This is the turning point in Mark's gospel. Till now there has been ever-increasing wonder and amazement at Jesus' personality and goodness. Then suddenly Peter comes to the realisation that Jesus is more than just an extraordinary healer, prophet, and teacher; his is in fact the Messiah, the Anointed of God, the Saviour for whom everyone was waiting.



**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY**

(1) *Wisdom 2:12, 17-20*.

(2) *James 3:16 - 4:3*.

(3) *Mark 9:30-37*.

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**Died Recently:** Shirley SAMSON; Kathleen HESSIAN.

**Anniversaries:** Wyn DRYDEN; Frank GRAHAM; Sr Eleanor PELVIN; Mary McCARTHY, Heather McGELLIGOT;

Bryan LAMB. **May they rest in peace.**

**Fr Pat McGettigan is filling in for Fr Brendan (on annual leave) this weekend, and Bp Colin Campbell (retired) for the following two weeks. Please phone the presbytery (03 448 8202) with any enquiries; leave a message if necessary.**

**SAINTS OF THE WEEK – Andrew Kim and Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions (20 Sept):**

For centuries, Korea was closed to all outside influences, and all contact with foreigners was forbidden. A number of laymen sought to find out all that they could about the outside world. Some books about Christianity fell into their hands, and they were converted. The first known baptism is that of Ni-Seoung-Houn, when he visited Peking in 1784. Missionaries followed, in secret; so also did waves of public persecution. Over the 19<sup>th</sup> century the number of martyrs exceeded 10,000, with many suffering great cruelty. In all, a representative number of 103 Korean martyrs are celebrated today: they are mostly lay men and women: some married, some not; some old, some young.

**NATIONAL NEWS:**

**Treaty Principles Bill:** 400 Church leaders, including all three Anglican archbishops, the Catholic Archbishop (Bp Paul Martin) and a Catholic cardinal (Cardinal John Dew), the Methodist Church president, and the Salvation Army Commissioner, signed an open letter to MPs calling on them to vote down the Treaty Principles bill, promoted by David Seymour's Act party. The letter states, "The proposed bill would undermine what Te Tiriti guarantees, and what decades of law, jurisprudence and policy have sought to recognise." (*NZ Herald, 09 Sept*)

**New Maori Queen has Catholic sacraments:**

The new Maori monarch, Queen Ngā Wai hono I te pō, is the eighth Māori monarch, continuing a direct lineage from the first Māori King. Notably, at the request of her late grandmother, Queen Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, before her passing in 2006, the new queen was baptised at Huntly by the late Bp Takuira Mariu SM, received the sacrament of Reconciliation at a chapel at Hopuhopu near Ngaaruawaahia, and Confirmation and her first Communion at a Mass on Tūrangawaewae marae. (See

<https://cathnews.co.nz/2024/09/05/maori-queen>)

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS :**

Nearly half of East Timor’s population, of 1.35 million people, attended a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis this week. His message was, ‘...not to be afraid to make ourselves small before God and before each other; to lose our lives, to give up our time, to revise our schedules, giving up something to help a brother or sister become better and happier.’

Churches for Middle East Peace, and Christian Aid, are among 31 leading humanitarian groups calling on all Member States to take urgent steps to protect people deprived of their liberty across the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.

**Human Trafficking:**

Persons living in extreme poverty, the Holy See warned are, ‘the most likely to fall into the trap of human trafficking and slavery; it is therefore, our collective responsibility to help them find a safe place where they can...flourish.’

**HUMOUR:**

A parish had a picnic and invited everyone. The Priest placed a box of apples on one end of the table with a sign: “Take only one apple-Remember that God is watching.’

On the other end a of the table was a plate of cookies where one child had written, “ Take all the cookies you want-God is watching the apples.”

**Brochures:**

There are a variety of brochures situated at the back of the Church that are a good read, especially while the weather is so unpredictable at the moment.

In *the nathaniel report 73* there is an article written by a Canadian author that is topical for New Zealanders as *The End of Life Choice Act (2019)* is currently undergoing a statutory review.

In the “72” report, there are extensive articles on Genetic Modification changes that are being discussed now. This is important information had as any decisions will have repercussions for future generations.

**RECONCILIATION (Rite I)**

*Alexandra* church.

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

**MASS WITH ANOINTING**

**OF THE SICK** (March, June,  
September, December)

*Alexandra*: First Friday (noon).

*Roxburgh*: First Wednesdays (5:15pm)

**EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION**

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

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**SUNDAY MASSES**

*Omakau*, St Peters: (Saturday) 6pm

*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 5:15pm

(in presbytery):

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**PARISH CONTACT DETAILS**

*Parish Priest*: Fr Brendan Ward.

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*Phone*: 03 448 8202, or 027 975 3272

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*Parish Council*: Mr Pat Cooney. 027 768 9918

*Finance Chair*: Mr Phil Peguero. 027 499 0277

*St Gerard’s P’pal*: Mrs Julie Flannery 034488339

*Catholic Social Services*: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu).

*Parish Website*: [www.alexcatholic.nz](http://www.alexcatholic.nz)

*Diocese Website*: [www.cdd.nz](http://www.cdd.nz)

