



**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]

22 September 2024

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

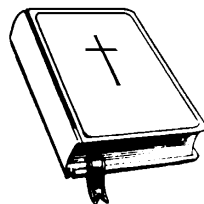
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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Wisdom 2:12,17-20.* The Book of Wisdom was written probably at Alexandria, on the northern coast of Egypt, and was written in Greek. A major theme is the contrast between divine Wisdom and folly, characterised by the taunts which those who refuse divine Wisdom make against those who embrace it.

(2) *James 3:16 – 4:3.* the Letter of James contrasts quarrelling and ambition, and their evil effects, with the true wisdom which brings peace. He also comments that in prayer we express to God our needs and desires, although we are well aware that he knows them already. Such trusting engagement is what a child has with a loving father.

(3) *Mark 9:30-37.* In the ancient world, perhaps because of the high infant mortality rate, only a small minority of children would reach adulthood. So the child represents the most neglected segment of society, and Jesus chooses the child to stress that all human beings have infinite value, being made in the image of God. All deserve the same respect, love and care.



READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) *Numbers 11:25-29.*

(2) *James 5:1-6.*

(3) *Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48.*

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Died Recently:

Anniversaries: Malia Losa LAM; Brian MCGELLIGOT; Jim BREEN.

May they rest in peace.

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ST GERARD'S SCHOOL NEWS: The last day of Term Three is this coming Friday, the 27th September. We pray for a refreshing, safe and enjoyable break for all teachers, pupils, and families of the school. Term 4 commences on Monday 14th October.

Recently some of the students planted 30 new native trees, shrubs and tussocks around the school to help beautify the school environment.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Vincent de Paul: He was born in Aquitaine in SW France in 1581. As a young man he became a priest. After escaping enslavement by pirates in 1607, he devoted his whole life to the service of the poor. This led to his founding, along with St Louise de Marillac, of the religious order named the Sisters of Charity. In 1625 he established a religious order of men known as the Lazarists, nowadays more commonly called the Vincentians. He also founded groups of laymen to help paupers and galley-slaves. The Lazarists worked as mission preachers and seminary educators. He distinguished himself as a preacher against the very penitential and puritanical theological movement known as Jansenism. (Feast day 27 October):

St Vincent de Paul News:

“The greatest disease in the West today is not tuberculosis or leprosy, it is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for.”- *Mother Teresa*

The society gives food in many forms: bed, clothing, accommodation, but as Mother Teresa says, there is much greater poverty than just the shortage of food. We all need to let people know they are wanted, loved and cared for, especially by God.

It is the love within service and in our conversations that will give the poor food that truly nourishes. (*St Vincent de Paul national website.*)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

www.vaticannews.va

Pope Francis wrapped up a three-day visit to Singapore, a country with large pockets of different faiths, saying, "All religions are a path to God....If you start to fight, 'my religion is more important than yours, mine is true and your isn't, where will that lead us? There's only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sikh, Muslim, Christian, and there are different paths (to God)...God is God for all." The Pontiff made these remarks during an interreligious meeting with young people at a local high school.

Understanding Holliness

Any act becomes holy, and wholly rewarding, once we discern God's presence in it. Weeding your flower bed is of the same cloth as sitting for tea with the Pope. Changing a baby's nappy is as spiritual as delivering Communion. Whatever we're doing, once we've recognised God there, and God in us, that becomes enough. (*Religion Unplugged*)

Attitude Counts

A couple of Harvard publications suggest that practicing gratitude and optimism might benefit us as dramatically as taking our blood pressure pills or joining an aerobics class. Participants in the study, whose gratitude scores in the highest one third of the group, had a 9 percent lower incidence of death than those who scored in the bottom one-third. Gratitude, the scholars said, appeared to protect against every cause of mortality.

NATIONAL NEWS: (<https://cathnews.co.nz>)

Chaplains are an "Integral part of Defence Force care," says Defence Minister Judith Collins. "They are not the nice to have. They're very much people who provide enormous support to our troops here and overseas."

One of Australia's newest citizens is the auxiliary bishop of Sydney, Bishop Richard Umbers. He was born and grew up in New Zealand but has been residing in Australia for the last 33 years.

HUMOUR:

Two children were sitting together during a wedding ceremony. As the couple said, "I do," one asked, "I wonder how many wives can a man have?"

"He can have 16 wives,' the other boy answered. 'The priest just said: Four better, four worse, four richer, and four poorer.'

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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.
Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.
Phone: 03 448 8202, or 027 975 3272
Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz
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
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz

