



**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]

29 September 2024

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Numbers 11:25-29.* Moses' father-in-law wisely suggests that Moses appoint assistants to deal with all the complaints, quarrels and lawsuits among the people. Further, a message finally given is that the Spirit of God is to be welcomed wherever it may be found. It is a valuable reminder that the Spirit of God is greater than human regulations and crosses human boundaries.

(2) *James 5:1-6.* There seem to have been rich Christians in the community at Corinth, but on the whole the Christians seem to have belonged to the lower classes and slaves. James was the leader of the Jerusalem community, which seems to have been in chronic financial difficulty: Paul was asked to help it out and took a collection from the gentile Churches up to Jerusalem.

(3) *Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48.* We must accept good wherever we can find it, not only in our own group and where we expect it to be. Second, dire warnings are given about 'scandals', evil doings that trip people up and make them fall over.



READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

- (1) *Genesis 2:18-24.*
- (2) *Hebrews 2:9-11.*
- (3) *Mark 10:2-16*

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Anniversaries: Cuth MOWAT;

May they rest in peace.

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WELCOME to visitors amongst us this weekend for the 67th annual Blossom Festival in Alexandra.

SAINT OF THE WEEK - St Francis of Assisi

(1181-1226): He was born in Assisi in 1181, the son of a prosperous cloth merchant. Being disillusioned with the trappings of overbearing and oppressive wealth he renounced his birthright by stripping off his rich clothes in the square in Assisi as a sign that the inner person had to be expressed rather than cloaked in silk and velvet. Francis' action was prophetic, a radical action to help us recognize the entanglements of what the world calls success.

He preached to all the love of God and the love of the created world; because, having renounced everything, he celebrated everything he received, or saw, or heard, as a gift. Like-minded altruistic individuals followed him, leading to the founding of the order that came to be known as the Franciscans. Francis went to Rome himself and persuaded the Pope to sanction it, though it must have seemed radical and subversive. Ten years later 5,000 men were members. Francis died in 1226, having started a revolution. The Franciscans endure to this day.

FEAST OF THE WEEK - The Holy Guardian

Angels (2nd October) follows on from the feast of Archangels St Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael (29 September). The doctrine that every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church and so is not an article of faith. However reference to angels as guides and intercessors occurs in both the Old and New Testaments. For example, the Book of Job (pronounced Joe-b; 33:23-6), and Matthew 18:10 (*As Jesus says, See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always gaze on the face of my Father in heaven.*). One of the benefits of this feast is that it reminds us that God cares for each of us, individually. We know this in theory, but it is easy when things are not going so well to convince ourselves that we are too small to matter, or unworthy to be so considered. Therefore this memorial helps to remind us that we are treasured by God, and that God works for our good in mysterious ways that are not always obviously evident to us.

ST GERARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Thursday, the finalists in the Eisteddfod for prepared speeches, were presented to the school and their parents.

Members of the NZ Symphony Orchestra visited the school and took workshops for groups of students. At present the school is busy practising for the school production, "A Hint of Snow White," to be presented on November 7th.

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

www.vaticannews.va

Seasons of Creation

As we welcome in spring and welcome those visitors to the Blossom Festival, we need to reflect on more than ever before, that much of our planet, and many of our people, are greatly suffering. Here are just two of the many examples of many tragic examples; 2023 was the world’s hottest year on record and global hunger is at a historical level with 42 million people in 45 countries languishing on the brink of starvation.

‘Better Off dead’ a BBC documentary sharpens suicide prevention focus

Produced by British actress and renowned disability right advocate, Liz Carr, shows from a secular perspective how assisted-suicide laws around the world threaten the lives of individuals with disabilities.

She argued that assisted -suicide laws suggest, ‘that some lives are more important than others.’ The documentary shows that life has value regardless of whether an individual has full functional control of his or her body.

World Youth Day

The Vatican on Tuesday unveiled the theme of the next International World Youth Day – which will be held in Seoul, South Korea. It is ‘Take Courage! I Have Overcome the World.’

Next year, World Youth Day will take place as part of the Jubilee Year celebrations in Rome from July 28-August 3rd. The Church has celebrated WYD since the event was first established by Pope John Paul 11 in 1985.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage approved

The Vatican has approved pilgrimages to this site in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a significant site of alleged Marian apparitions. In 1981, six children from Medjugorje, claimed to have received messages from the Virgin Mary. These visions marked a global phenomenon, with millions of visitors visiting the site.

Although the Vatican allows public devotion, it maintains a neutral stance on the supernatural nature of the events. Cardinal Fernandez said the pilgrimages brought profound spiritual commitment.

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

‘Passion’ leads to prize for pupils.

Three pupils from Saint Mary’s Kailoria wrote and recorded a song together which won the junior original song category of the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Sing Out For Justice competition. The song was about how God was always there for support, no matter what happens through the ups and downs.’

HUMOUR:

What did the classmate say when asked why he kept walking next to the same person at school? “I was told I’m supposed to walk by Faith.”

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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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

