



**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]

06 October 2024

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

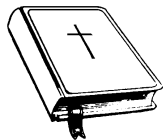
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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Genesis 2:18-24*. By giving the animals their names, the Man is taking part in their creation. Made in the image of God, the Man's task is to promote God's work and foster creation and foster life, just as God himself does. The creation of human beings is the climax of creation, which means that human beings have a responsibility towards the rest of creation.

(2) *Hebrews 2:9-11*. Jesus humbled himself to become man, only a little less than the angels, to become perfect through his suffering. He had to become fully human, so that by being made perfect he might lead all his brothers and sisters to the same perfection.

(3) *Mark 10:2-16*. The Pharisees are putting a trick question to Jesus; they knew the Law of Moses, which permitted divorce. As so frequently in his discussions with the legal experts, Jesus goes beyond the question: God made man and woman such that they should bond together permanently and become one thinking, living being, one entity, a single, vibrant personality. God's intention was not that they should be separable again. But for the Jews the Law of Moses was God's own gift, sacred and unalterable by any human authority. By altering it, Jesus is implicitly claiming for himself divine authority.



READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) *Wisdom 7:7-11*.

(2) *Hebrews 4:12-13*.

(3) *Mark 10:17-30*.

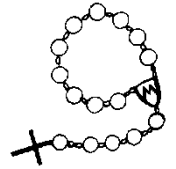
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Anniversaries: Gavin DUNLAY; Neil RAFFILLS. Hector ANDERTON
May they rest in peace.

OCTOBER – The month of the

Rosary: The Rosary is one of the most widely spread and universally respected of all Catholic prayer devotions. It provides a means by which to reflect upon the significant people, events and moments in the life of Jesus Christ, as passed down over the ages through sacred Scripture and Tradition (lived faith life) of the Church, (see 2 Thess 2:15).



The five '*Joyful Mysteries*' of the Rosary reflect upon the early life of Jesus; The five '*Mysteries of Light*' recall pivotal events of his earthly ministry; The five '*Sorrowful Mysteries*' reflect on his suffering and death; The five '*Glorious Mysteries*' reflect upon his Resurrection and its consequences.

For further information on the history of the Rosary and how to pray it go to, for example, the website <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosary>.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St John XXIII, Pope (11

October): Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in the village of Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo in Italy in 1881, one of 13 children of a farming and sharecropping family. He was ordained priest in 1904. Early on he served as secretary to the Bishop of Bergamo but from 1921 onwards he served in the diplomatic corps of the Vatican, in various posts, both in Rome and in Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece, culminating as Apostolic Nuncio to France from 1944 until 1953, when he was created cardinal and made the Patriarch of Venice. He was unexpectedly elected pope on 28 October 1958 at age 76 after eleven ballots. He surprised those who expected him to be a mere caretaker pope by calling the historic Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). He instituted the revision of Canon Law and made many passionate speeches during his pontificate. His views on equality were summed up in his statement, "We were all made in God's image, and thus, we are all Godly alike." He made a major impact on the Catholic Church, opening it up to dramatic unexpected changes promulgated at the Vatican Council and by his own dealings with other churches and nations. In Italian politics, he prohibited bishops from interfering with local elections. In international affairs, he engaged in dialogue with the communist countries of Eastern Europe. He especially reached out to the Eastern Orthodox churches. His overall goal was to modernize the Church by emphasizing its pastoral role. He died while the Vatican Council II was still in session, on 3 June 1963, and was canonized 27 April 2014. He is affectionately known as "the Good Pope".

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (www.vaticannews.va)

Pope Francis, while in Belgium this week, laid out a template for living the faith deeply in a secular culture. ‘We have moved from a Christianity located within a welcoming framework to a ‘minority’ Christianity, or better, a Christianity of ‘witness,’ he said. ‘Love moves us to proclaim the Gospel, which opens us to others.... What drives us to be missionaries is our desire to make known to as many as possible the joy of encountering Christ. What’s also important is to appreciate diversity, he added.’ Unity in the Church is not uniformity, but rather finding harmony within diversity. The spirit of the Gospel is a spirit of welcoming, of openness to everyone. It does not admit any kind of exclusion.’

Hospitality in Mean Times

People who are doing it hard, as so many New Zealanders, Australians and others are, in a time of gross inequality and economic pressure, readily see migrants and refugees as a cause of their discontents. This can be inflamed by politicians and by social media and threaten peace and civil order. It is now more important than ever to open our hearts and minds to those who are doing it hard, and not to barrack for some, while lumping together others as things and not as persons. In hard times it is easy to forget people.

Each has a name, is unique and precious. We all share that dignity with each person who lives with hunger, illness and fear, and with each person who has escaped beyond national borders to seek life for themselves and for their families in other nations. For many of us our own history has included flight from famine, poverty and from religious and ethnic discrimination.

It is now a time to think and act generously.

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

Joy Cowley is one of New Zealand’s most well-known authors. Now almost blinded by macular degeneration, 88-year-old Cowley is about to launch a new book of rhymes and nonsense, where shadow and light play a big part. ‘We’ve got to understand that every gift we’re given has a shadow. Sometimes we see the shadow and don’t see the gift...but we also need to understand that the shadow is the area of growth.’

Joy Cowley’s new book, ‘A lot of Silly: A Book of Rhymes and Nonsense,’ is a collection of amusing short stories and poems.

St Peter’s College Gore is running a pilot programme called “Hooked on Learning,” and is providing an alternative to NCEA Level 1 (Year 11). Instead of studying six subjects plus Religious Education the alternative programme allowed students to explore ten subject areas in two semesters.

Marriage Preparation Weekend

November 2024 Catholic Diocese of Dunedin

Dates:1-3 November 2024

Address: Tirohanga Camp 214 Tirohanga Rd North Taieri

Contact: Jo Krysa at jokrysa@hotmail.co.uk

Cost: \$250 per couple/family (includes accommodation and food.

Children welcome with activities planned. Register by October 18th

HUMOUR:

One morning a husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of bed to make the coffee. Finally the wife said decidedly, “You have to make the coffee, it’s in the Bible.’

The husband was shocked. “It’s not! Show me!’ Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, “It says right here- ‘**HE-BREWS.**’

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: alexatholic@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.alexatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz

