



**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]

20th OCTOBER 2024

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
MISSION SUNDAY**

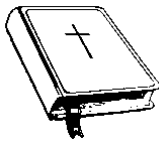
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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(NB: The Confirmation Mass readings differ from the readings set down for Mission Sunday)

(1) *Isaiah 53:10-11*. These prophetic words tell of how the promised Messiah will save humanity by dying in place of us in atonement for our sins, thereby being the offering of reparation which humanity consistently proves incapable of making for itself.

(2) *Hebrews 4:14-16*. In the time of Jesus, ransom was the price paid to free someone from slavery. Sometimes the ransomer offered himself as a substitute for the slave, as Jesus did. The reading also speaks of a "High Priest who is able to sympathize with us" in our weakness because Jesus has been tested in every way, though sinless, and so we can "confidently" hope for God's mercy.



(3) *Mark 10:35-45*. Jesus foretells for the third time of his suffering and death to atone for humanity's sins, so to save us. But his disciples are still dreaming of a triumphant political messiah who will re-establish the glorious Davidic kingdom. Hearing the selfish request made by James and John for key positions in the Messianic political kingdom, Jesus challenges them, and us, to become great by serving others with sacrificial *agape* love: "Whoever wishes to be great must be a servant."

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:

(1) Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 5:1-6; (3) Mark 10:46-52.

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Died Recently: Trish Schaumann.
Anniversaries: Kathy Watt; Eugene Woodhouse; Ben Gibbons; Janet McLean.
'May they rest in peace.'

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SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: The word 'sacrament' is of Greek origin. It refers to the means by which we encounter the care (grace) of God for us. Some scripture quotes specific to the sacrament of Confirmation include:



"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16).

"God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

"No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:3).

"The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." (Romans 8:26).

"Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:21).

"I will not leave you orphaned; ... the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. (John 14:18..26)

Congratulations to TANA, MAHE, JHELZY, ALAZNE, ALFIE, RUBY, ANGUS, CONNOR, TEO, DAN, DON, DAMIAN, and MILLER who receive the sacrament of Confirmation today. May they know continued blessings and peace, always.

MISSION SUNDAY: World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic parish and community in the world on this day. It is the mission of all the baptised to share the Good News of Jesus Christ who said **'I came that you may have life, and have it to the full'** (Jn 10:10). Mission Sunday is also a moment of grace to express solidarity with all brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence, oppression and neglect. Every parish, school and community is invited to join this special event, and every cent and prayer you give to *Missio* helps missionaries everywhere continue their work of evangelisation and pastoral care. Donations may be made using envelopes previously distributed, or by using one available from the church foyer, or by using your own envelope and posting to *Missio Aotearoa, PO Box 4544, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140*. Thank you for your support.

SAINT OF THE WEEK - St Ignatius of Antioch (? to 107AD): He was the second bishop of Antioch (which is in modern-day Turkey, just north of the Syrian border). He was arrested by Roman authorities, condemned to death, and transported

to Rome to be thrown to wild beasts in the Colosseum. In the course of his journey he wrote seven letters to various churches, in which he dealt prudently and deeply with Christ, the organisation of the Church, and the Christian life. They are important documents for the early history of the Church. They also reveal a deeply holy man who accepts his fate, to the point that he exhorts the Christians in Rome not to try and intervene in his inevitable martyrdom, which occurred in 107.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (www.vaticannews.va)

(1) Pope Francis says economic leaders must listen to the demands of those at the end of the food chain. And in a post on X (previously the social media outlet called ‘Twitter’) he decries military spending and calls for investments to combat hunger.

(2) Italy: Expressing esteem to Italian surgeons, Pope Francis reminds them to protect lives of those suffering and that science is to serve humanity and not the reverse.

(3) Britain: Cardinal Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, mobilises Catholics against bill on assisted suicide before the House of Commons in Westminster.

(4) Haiti: The bishops of Haiti have joined Dominican bishops human rights organizations in condemning the indiscriminate mass deportation, abuses and violence suffered by Haitian citizens living in the neighbouring Dominican Republic. Haiti is in no condition to absorb the influx of 10,000 deportees a week as it continues to face out-of-control security and humanitarian crisis.

(5) Sudan: The humanitarian catastrophe that the world ignores. The ongoing war in Sudan, stemming from a power struggle between the army and the RSF (Rapid Support Forces), has led to severe humanitarian crises, with thousands killed, millions displaced, and widespread atrocities, yet it remains largely overlooked by global media.

(6) Ghana: Major Religious superiors in ‘Environmental Prayer Walk’ over illegal mining which have significantly polluted water bodies and destroyed agricultural lands.

(7) Moscow: Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi to visit Moscow as part of the mission entrusted to him by Pope Francis to seek a path to peace in Ukraine and to facilitate the reunification of Ukrainian children with their families and the exchange of prisoners-of-war.

RECOMMENDED PODCAST: ‘The Rest Is History’ podcast series is presented jointly by acclaimed British historians Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook. Two episodes of particular note are entitled ‘Jesus Christ: The Mystery’, and ‘Jesus Christ: The History’, episodes 287 and 288 respectively. ; each is

about 50 minutes long. Tom Holland is a professed Christian, Dominic Sandbrook isn’t. But they are respectful colleagues and engage in some refreshing banter, offering insights that are informative and thought-provoking. -Fr.B.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND: A Marriage Preparation Weekend is coming up for engaged couples in the Diocese of Dunedin. When: 1st-3rd November, (Friday evening to Sunday). Where: Tirohanga Camp, 214 Tirohanga Rd, North Taieri. Cost: \$250 per couple, which includes food and accommodation. Registration: Contact Jo Krysa at joekrysa@hotmail.co.uk. For more information see the diocese’s website www.cdd.nz.

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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RECONCILIATION (Rite I)

Alexandra: Saturdays 9:30-10am;
 Otherwise on request.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

(March, June, September, December)
Alexandra: First Friday Mass (noon)
Roxburgh: First Wednesday Mass (5:15pm, in presbytery)

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

Alexandra side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:50am.
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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.alexcatholic.nz
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.

