



**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]

**27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

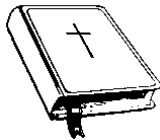
**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY**

(1) *Jeremiah 31:7-9.* God's Chosen People have been subjected to captivity in Babylon; now God will liberate them, bringing them back to their homeland.

(2) *Hebrews 5:1-6.* Jesus is presented as the true *High Priest*, sympathetic to us because he has shared our human nature in everything, including temptation, although not sin.



(3) *Mark 10:46-52.* Jesus shows the mercy and compassion of His Heavenly Father by healing the blind Bartimeus.

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**

(1) *Deuteronomy 6:2-6;* (2) *Hebrews 7:23-28;*

(3) *Mark 12:28-34.*

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**Died Recently:** Tony LANIGAN (Auckland).

**Anniversaries:** William and Catherine McKISSOCK; David McKINNEL.

**'May they rest in peace.'**

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**ALL SAINTS DAY - Next Friday, 01 November:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** MASS WILL BE AT 5:10PM IN ALEXANDRA (DUE TO FR BRENDAN BEING AT A FUNERAL ELSEWHERE EARLIER IN THE DAY). I.E. NO NOON MASS NEXT FRIDAY.

**All Saints** commemorates our ancestors in faith who were outstanding in their witness to Christ and in their love for fellow humanity (although some have acknowledged through their writings and stories that they didn't necessarily start out that way!). Just as deeds of



great endeavour by intrepid adventurers can inspire and encourage us, so calling to mind the extra-ordinary lives of saints can inspire and encourage us in our own faith journeys. But further, they are more than just passive historical persons of curiosity. As they are one with God in the fulness of life that we yet journey towards, so we can implore their intercessory support to walk with us and pray for us yet, because we are all one in God who is not constrained by space or time. May their ongoing care and prayers for us help us to be grateful for God's love, mercy and compassion, be faithful to our callings in life whatever they may be, and be generous in our response, as the saints were.

**ALL SOULS DAY - Next Saturday, 02 Nov:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** MASS OF THE DAY WILL BE AT 9am AT ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, CLYDE,



**Holy Souls** – Offering a Mass and praying for the repose of the souls of deceased ancestors is a time-honoured practice of the Church. St. Paul prayed for his dead friend Onesiphorus, *"May the Lord grant him to find mercy"* (2 Timothy 1:16-18). The Gospel of Matthew infers that certain offences can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come (Matt 12:32). The Old Testament recounts that *'an expiatory sacrifice was offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin'* (2 Maccabees 12:44-46). Early Christian gravestones include the inscriptions *'Please pray for me'* (see Catholic Encyclopaedia). So we take time to pray for our imperfect, yet ultimately God-seeking dead. In the words of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist: *"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace."* (Luke 1:78-79).

To have a Mass offered for deceased family and friends, place an envelope with their names in it in the box at the front of the church altars throughout the month of November. Any offerings that are included will be donated to a suitable charity. Also, there will prayer candle lighting opportunities before and after Saturday and Sunday Masses.

**'FIRST HOLY COMMUNION' PREPARATION**

**EVENING:** Next Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 7pm – 7:45pm, in the side chapel of the Alexandra church. This meeting is for parents and children in the sacrament programme, or additional children who have moved to Central Otago from elsewhere already Baptised and



Confirmed but who have yet to receive their first Holy Communion.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 9am Mass in Alexandra on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, the Feast of Christ the King.



'To all parents, St Gerard's staff, and parishioners' who helped prepare for and manage the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday. Bp Michael was very appreciative of how candidates engaged with him at the Friday practice and received the sacrament on Sunday.'

'To all who helped with recent property maintenance at St Peters, Omakau, including church gutter cleaning, roof moss spraying, and ground mowing.' -Fr Brendan.

**NEW ST GERARD'S STAFF, 2025:** Ms Phillippa Hunter and Mrs Karen Calvert have, respectively, been appointed to the 'permanent tagged position' and to the 'fixed-term position', commencing 2025. Karen is an experienced teacher moving from Invercargill (to teach the new entrant children); Phillippa is a first-year teacher who attended St. Kevin's College in Oamaru for high school.

**MISSION SUNDAY APPEAL:** There are still a few envelopes left over from last Sunday in the Alexandra church foyer for anyone who would still like to support the Mission Sunday appeal.

**MEDIA PRAYER DAY:** Today Christians throughout the world join together globally, for the first time, to pray for all who report and shape the ideas and values of societies and who provide tone and direction to both national and global conversations. To access this 24 hour live streaming of prayer, commencing at noon in NZ, go online to 'mediaprayerday.nz'.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

([www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)),

October 23-24:

\*On behalf of the Holy See, Cardinal Ayuso sent well wishes to those celebrating the Hindu feast of Deepavali, saying "May we, Christians and Hindus, join hands with the people of other religious traditions and with people of good will, and do all that we can to promote harmony amidst diversity and despite differences."

\*As the world marks UN Disarmament Week, Pope Francis has denounced the global arms trade, describing it as the industry that generates the most profit. Imagine, he said, "making profit from death." ... With more than 90 countries involved in external conflicts, the need for arms control has never been more urgent."



\*Pope at general audience: Invite Holy Spirit to protect your marriage and children.

\*Pope Francis reiterates his appeal for peace in the world, saying the fatality statistics coming from Ukraine are "terrible" and that "Palestine is suffering inhumane attacks.

\*Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez, champion of the poor, dies aged 96. A pioneer of Liberation Theology, he challenged the Church to reconsider its role in a world marked by social inequality, and to commit more fully to the defence of the weak.

\*Typhoon-hit Catholic Dioceses in the Philippines have activated emergency response units in areas affected by torrential rains.

\*Milan hosts a festival dedicated to rights of young people.

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**HUMOUR:** A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

**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**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Brendan Ward.

**Address:** 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.

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

**Email:** [alexatholic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alexatholic@xtra.co.nz)

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

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

**St Gerard's Principal:** Mrs Julie Flannery; 034488339

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

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

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