



**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]

**03 NOVEMBER 2024**

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY**

(1) *Deuteronomy 6:2-6*. Moses explaining the Law to the Israelites after his return from Mount Sinai. He exhorts the people to revere, embrace and obey the Law given by God as something that will bring them dignity, purpose and stature, and fruitful, peaceful lives.

(2) *Hebrews 7:23-28*. Some Jewish converts to Christianity missed the comforting institutions they had enjoyed in Judaism. The author of Hebrews tries to explain to them how much greater are the benefits they receive as Christians.



(3) *Mark 12:28-34*. A Scribe asks Jesus to summarize the most important of the Mosaic Laws in one sentence. Jesus responds that true religion is loving God and loving our fellow human beings at the same time. It is by showing genuine, active love for our neighbours that we can demonstrate that we really love God.

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY:**

(1) *1 Kings 17:10-16*; (2) *Hebrews 9:24-28*;  
 (3) *Mark 12:38-44*.

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**Died Recently:**

**Anniversaries:** Honora PAULIN;  
 Ozzie WALDERS; Cath CORRY;  
 Bernard FOLEY; Gordon  
 MCKENZIE

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

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**'HOLY SOULS' FEASTDAY (02 Nov)**

**EXPLANATION:** – The leader of the protestant Reformation around 1520AD, Martin Luther, was affronted (rightly so) by clergy who would use people's Mass offerings to line their own pockets.

Second, wealthy people would pay poor people to undertake penances for them in the belief (erroneously) they (the wealthy) would not suffer personal judgement for their sins. Luther was correct to challenge such injustice and manipulation. However it's one thing to point out deceitful practices; it's another to also reject the teaching that is being deceitfully abused. For praying for the repose of the souls of deceased ancestors has bases in both scripture and tradition (the lived faith of the people), and is a time-honoured practice of the Church. e.g. St. Paul prayed for his dead friend Onesiphorus, "*May the Lord grant him to find mercy*" (2 Timothy 1:16-18). 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.

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 monetary offerings that are included will be donated to suitable charities. -Fr. Brendan.

**'FIRST HOLY COMMUNION'**

**PREPARATION EVENING:** This

Sunday, 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 more recently moved to Central Otago from elsewhere having already been 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.**

**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.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS** ([www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)):

**(27. Oct)** St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures" is on display in Rome, to mark the 8th centenary of its composition in 1224. It is one of the oldest texts in Italian literature. Being dedicated to different parts of creation, it was well ahead of its time and is a precursor to modern emphases that seek to restore to right balance humanity's relationship with the rest of creation.

**The Canticle of the Creatures**

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,  
yours is the praise, the glory and the honor  
and every blessing.

*To you alone, Most High, do they belong,  
and no one is worthy to speak your name.*

Praised be you, my Lord with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day through whom you bring us light.

*And he is lovely, shining with great  
splendor, for he heralds you, Most High.*

Praised be you, my Lord,  
through Sister Moon and Stars.

In heaven you have formed them,  
lightsome and precious and fair.

*And praised be you, my Lord,  
through Brother Wind,*

*Through air and cloud, through calm  
and every weather by which  
you sustain your creatures.*

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
so very useful and humble,  
precious and chaste.

*Praised be you, my Lord through Brother  
Fire, by whom you light up the night,  
and he is handsome and merry,  
robust and strong.*

Praised be you, my Lord,  
through our Sister, Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and directs us  
bringing forth all kinds of fruits  
and colored flowers and herbs.

*Praised be you, my Lord  
through those who forgive for your love  
and who bear sickness and trial.*

*Blessed are those who endure in peace,  
for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.*

Praised be you, my Lord,  
through our Sister Bodily Death  
from whom no living being can escape.

*How dreadful for those  
who die in mortal sin!*

*How blessed are those she finds  
in your most holy will for the second death  
can do them no harm.*

O praise and bless my Lord,  
thank him and serve him humbly but grandly!

Nov 01, 'All Saints Day' Headlines: (1) 'Pope sends message to those affected by. Floods in Spain'; (2) Pope says 'Educate with love and the gaze of Jesus. (3) Pope's November prayer intention: For those who have lost a child. (4) Pope to Vatican communicators: Build bridges where others build walls.

\*Pope urges faithful to take little steps to live more holy lives. "Do I ask God, in prayer, for the gift of a holy life? Do I let myself be guided by the good impulses that His Spirit inspires in me? And do I commit myself personally to practising the

Beatitudes of the Gospel, in the environments in which I live?"

\*Pope Francis once again turned his thoughts to Ukraine, to Myanmar, and to South Sudan before asking for peace in the Middle East. "Brothers and sisters, war is always a defeat, always!" He described warfare as being "ignoble", explaining that "it is the triumph of lies and of falsehood, seeking maximum gain for oneself and maximum harm for the adversary, trampling on human lives, the environment, infrastructure—everything; and all masked by lies".

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**HUMOUR:** A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus was sitting here, he would say, 'Let your brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

**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).