

Britain's first Catholic medical school: St Mary's University in Twickenham, London, plans to establish Britain's first Catholic medical school, set to open in September 2026. This initiative aims to address the country's urgent need for medical professionals while integrating Catholic values into medical education. The university aims to produce "ethically discerning" graduates in their medical practice, reflecting its Catholic identity.

Vatican report on protection of Minors: The first-ever annual report of the Vatican Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors states that New Zealand, Australia, the South Pacific Islands, North America and Europe have all created adequate structures to address abuse. The report notes that Africa, Asia and South America lag behind in creating these structures due to a lack of resources. It stresses the urgent need for "increasing solidarity among episcopal conferences, to mobilise resources for a universal standard in safeguarding".

Migrant and refugee support: A new Catholic support network that will extend across the Pacific aims to take care of Oceania's migrant workers, refugees and their families. The network will be used to provide pastoral and practical assistance, and better employment and healthcare to thousands of migrants and refugees.

VATICAN. NEWS (www.vaticannews.va)

Cardinal offers best wishes to Trump: Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican Secretary of State, expressed his hope that US President-elect Trump will govern with wisdom, "because this is the principal virtue of leaders according to the Bible." He said the president-elect will have to work "above all to be the president of the whole country" in order to overcome the polarisation that increasingly marks our age. At the same time, he expressed his hope that Trump would be "an element of détente and pacification in the current conflicts that are bloodying his world."

Gaza Strip polio vaccination: UNICEF and WHO have completed the second stage in their polio vaccine campaign in the Gaza strip, after delays due to Israeli air strikes. The UN organisations, and world leaders, including Pope Francis, have continuously called for a ceasefire in Gaza and condemned attacks on humanitarian centers.

Redefining Alcoholism – Recovery is possible: Indian journalist and writer Maria Viency Cardozo sheds light on the profound impact of alcoholism on families in Goa, India, and around the world. She offers a message of hope that "recovery is possible, and that families

can rebuild their lives even after enduring the worst of alcoholism's impact."

Pope Francis: -The Church is a field hospital: "Thank you for your testimony of Christian life; continue to spread hope, mercy, and love to others, so that those convinced of this truth can join in collaborating in the service of the poorest." Pope Francis offered these words to members of the *Iglesias Hospital de Campaña* ('Field Hospital Churches') he received at the Vatican last Monday. He commended them for their work especially in three areas: announcing Christ, repairing inequalities, and sowing hope.

HUMOUR – Church bulletin bloopers:

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

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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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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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Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz



Have a good week everyone. Blessings and peace. - -Fr Brendan.