

24 NOVEMBER 2024



**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]

**34th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Daniel 7:13-14*. The first reading, taken from the book of Daniel, tells of the mysterious Son of Man (with whom Jesus would later identify Himself), coming on the clouds, glorified by God, and given dominion that will last forever.

(2) *Revelation 1:5-8*. In the second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation, the risen Christ comes amid the clouds as the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last of all things.

(3) *John 18:33-37*. In today's Gospel, Jesus asserts before Pilate that He is a king and clarifies that his kingdom "does not belong to this world." He rules as King by serving others rather than by dominating them; His authority is rooted in Truth, not in physical force, and His Kingdom, the reign of God, is based on the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:1-10*).

ALSO:

(3) *Luke 9:11-17*. At Mass in Alexandra today the Gospel reading differs from the norm, because we are celebrating first Holy Communion (Eucharist) for some younger parishioners. It is an appropriate association, because we see in the Eucharist Christ giving of himself still for the good of us; he is still our 'Servant King'. At the Last Supper he associated the sharing of the bread and wine with the washing of his disciples feet and he subsequently asked them 'Do you understand what I have done for you?'

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY
(First Sunday of Advent):**

- (1) *Jeremiah 33:14-16*;
- (2) *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*;
- (3) *Luke 21:25-28,34-36*.



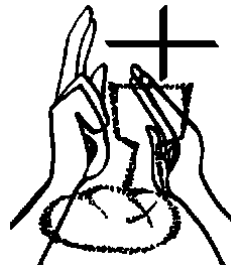
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Died Recently: Rosaleen (Rosie) HENDERSON. Margaret (Nancy) MORONEY;
Anniversaries: Martin DUNLAY; Elizabeth LAMB.
'May they rest in peace.'

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to the 12 children who receive their first Holy Communion this Sunday in Alexandra. As they go through life may the 'Bread of Life', our food from heaven, be a continuing source of nourishment, sustenance, and strength for them, in soul and spirit. St Augustine put it this way with regard to receiving Holy Communion, 'In being what you receive, receive what you are'.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY – 'CHRIST THE KING':

The Sunday readings over recent weeks have had an 'end-times' focus running through them, given that this Sunday marks the end of the Church's calendar year. Thinking about 'end-times' and 'final judgement' is not popular and can leave us ill-at-ease. Yet the volume and variety of teachings that Christ proclaims on these themes leaves no doubt as to his position. Sub-themes have included 'being prepared', 'staying awake', 'responsible stewardship', and 'accountability'. The 'Last Judgement' scene (*Matthew 25:31-46 – 'Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, ...'*) promotes the question "Am I my neighbour's keeper?", to which Jesus answers a resounding "Yes". How we answer, not just by our words but more importantly by our actions, is a determinate for the meaning and consequences of our lives. "For Farmer Hogget knew that little ideas that tickled and nagged and refused to go away should never be ignored, for in them lie the seeds of destiny" (from the movie Babe). i.e. Let us be focused on the good we do, the care we show, the patience we exhibit because, while we are all fragile and flawed creatures, we are also capable of extraordinary generosity, considerateness, ... have universal consequences, in tiny and in great ways. -Fr. Brendan.

CLERGY ANNUAL RETREAT: All priests and deacons of the diocese will be on retreat in Invercargill this coming week. For urgent matters only txt Fr Brendan on 027 975 3272. Messages will be checked early morning and late evening daily.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO THEOLOGY STUDIES:

The University of Otago offers a wide range of theology courses and qualifications, all available via distance learning, including Biblical Languages, Biblical Studies, Chaplaincy, Christian Thought and History, and Pastoral Studies/Ministry. For further information see www.otago.ac.nz/theology or phone 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639. See <https://tinyurl.com/theologyotagovideo> for a brief video or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/theologyotago. (Also, see the brochures in church foyers.)

FUNERAL SERVICE, Rosaleen Henderson:
This coming Thursday, 11am, at St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Alexandra.

ALEXANDRA CENTENARY PROJECTS UPDATE: The renewed church-front sign, to read 'St John the Baptist Catholic Church' should be erected before Christmas. The establishment of a new street-front sign remains a work in progress.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK - St Catherine of Alexandria (Monday 25th Nov): Legends have it that St Catherine was outspoken at the time of the persecutions of Christians in 305AD, protesting openly to the emperor Maxentius, who had her arrested, tortured and beheaded. St Catherine is honoured for having made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of justice and peace for her fellow Christians. It wouldn't be for another 12 years that such persecutions were largely ended by Constantine the Great, who legalised Christianity.

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

Failure of education is cultural genocide that robs children of their future: Pope Francis tells the Dicastery for Culture and Education that they "are morally obliged" to help the 250 million children who do not attend school.

Pope: 'Key to education is good school-family collaboration'. Addressing Italy's leading Catholic publishing group in the education sector, Pope Francis reiterates the need for an "educational pact" capable of uniting ... families, schools, and society to address the new challenges of our time.

Rescue Sudan from disintegration, Bishops of Sudan and South Sudan make heartfelt appeal. With the situation in Sudan already being described internationally as one of the "the world's worst humanitarian crisis," the Catholic Bishops of Sudan and South Sudan have earnestly appealed to the global community to do all possible to prevent the country from disintegrating.

Ukraine's First Lady meets Pope and visits patients at Vatican Children's Hospital. The wife of the Ukrainian President is in Rome, meeting Italian authorities and government officials as her country marks 1,000 tragic days of war.

Cardinal Parolin at G20: Reforms must ensure human rights. At the G20 Summit in Brazil, Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin challenges wealthier countries to forgive the debts of developing countries and take responsibility for their past decisions.

Nigerian women religious against human trafficking meet to re-think and strategise partnerships. The members of the Nigerian Conference of Women Religious Against Human Trafficking (NCWRAHT) gathered in Abuja for their annual conference, to enhance networking and better collaboration.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2025: Are available for purchase from the church sacristies after weekend Masses. \$15 each. Great Christmas presents. Pages by month exhibit classic religious art with an accompanying explanation.

JUBILEE HIKOI 2025: Each year an anniversary Mass is celebrated at Hokianga, Northland, in remembrance of the first Mass in NZ by Bishop Pompallier in 1838. On 10th – 12th January next year all the NZ Bishops will be attending as part of the international Jubilee Year 2025 celebrations. For anyone wishing to attend, go online to register at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/lifeinfaith/nga_tapuwae-2025/. Also, see the flyer in church foyers.

HEALTH CENTRAL URGENT CARE CENTRE: This is a walk-in medical service for locals and visitors. Open 7 days, 8am to 6pm, for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. 105-107 Tarbert St, Alexandra. See the flyer on the church foyer noticeboards for more information.

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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

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.

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Email: alexcatholic@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.alexcatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.