19 October 2025
The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
MISSION SUNDAY

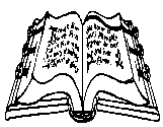
ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA
[**St John the Baptist** (1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's (1928) Omakau;
St Dunstan's (1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's (1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace (1910) Roxburgh]

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

SCRIPTURE READING COMMENTARIES FOR TODAY
(adapted from HW of the Universalis website).

(1) *Exodus 17:8-13:* This battle scene seems an odd passage to choose to reinforce the Gospel lesson of perseverance in prayer. It highlights the difference between Old Testament and New Testament perspectives, how the former was a precursor to the latter, the latter a corrective fulfilment of the former, the sometimes violent and retributive nature of which is evidently still alive and active in our world today. As the prayer of Moses expressed his reliance on God to deliver his people from destruction, so persistent and heartfelt prayer remains a necessary precursor for liberty and peace to reign in today's world. But as Jesus pointedly asks in today's Gospel, at the end of time will he find any faith on earth?

(2) *2 Timothy 3:14-4:2.* The writer highlights that the scriptures exist to 'instruct you for salvation'. It follows that the message has first to be received and taken into one's own heart before it can be handed on to others for their good.



(3) *Luke 18:1-18.* Prayer can be thought of as an act of asking – Today's parable encourages us to pester God as the wronged widow pestered the Unjust Judge. But persistent asking is only one aspect of Luke's teaching on prayer. For example, as expressed in his parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector: the tax-collector wins approval because he just stands there, humbly admitting his sins. Most instructive, however, is Luke's teaching on Jesus himself at prayer: Jesus is always quietly at prayer with his Father. Especially he prays at the most important moments of his life. Paul tells us that the prayer of asking must be built on a relationship of love and dependence, just as the request of child to devoted parents is built on that loving relationship.

Readings for next Sunday (30th Sunday of Year C)
(1) *Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19;*
(2) *2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18;*
(3) *Luke 18:9-14.*

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Died Recently: Cathy Matheson; Jim Bolger (Rt Hon).
Anniversaries: Kathy Watt; Eugene Woodhouse; Ben Gibbon; Janet McLean.
May they rest in peace'

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE: What is it? It is a time each day over 4 days to become attentive to the touch of God in our lives and surroundings, while carrying on with usual daily routines as well as taking 20-30 min each day to reflect and pray. The Retreat begins **this Sunday 19th October from 4.30 to 5 pm in the church in Alexandra**. Then for the next three days there will be a group meeting and sharing time, either at 10.30 am or 4.30 pm each day. The Wednesday meeting will conclude the Retreat. For more information contact Sr Leona on 0212095811.

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

The homily at Masses this Sunday will feature a brief video clip by Pope Leo, exhorting Catholics across the world to support missionaries and the work they do for the good of those they serve. He writes: *"Dear brothers and sisters. I have chosen the motto: "Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples". It reminds individual Christians and the entire Church, the community of the baptised, of our fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope."*

Globally, an extra collection is taken up today (after Communion) for support of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Alternative ways to offer support include:

(1) Freepost *Missionz envelopes* may be collected from church foyers for use over the coming week;

(2) Donations may be posted in plain envelopes to: *Missio Aotearoa / MissioNZ, PO Box 4544, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140;*

(3) Donations may be paid directly into the *MissioNZ bank account, 02-0506-0022477.*

'Thank you for your generosity, care, and commitment.' (Fr Michael Pui, MissioNZ Director).

PRAYER FOR WOMEN OF THE WORLD: The Alexandra Baptist Church (6 Gregg St) will be hosting a special prayer night **this Sunday, 19 October, between 7pm – 8:30pm,** focused on praying for the wellbeing of women in our families, our churches, our communities, our country and beyond. All welcome (women and men).

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Luke (feastday 18 October): A Greek doctor who converted to Christianity, he is credited with writing the Gospel of Luke and also the Acts of the Apostles which narrates the early history of the Church up to St Paul's first stay in Rome. As a Greek, Luke takes care to explain to Gentile readers Jewish customs and the meaning of Hebrew words. His writings are noted for their emphasis on the universality of salvation for all people, particularly for the marginalized and the poor. He is traditionally believed to have been a native of Antioch (modern day southern coastal Turkey). According to some ancient sources, St. Luke was martyred at age 84 in the Greek city of Thebes. He is honored as the patron saint of artists and physicians.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS for 2026: Available from church foyers. $15 each. Great Christmas gifts.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.com):

*** Broadcasting advertising restrictions on holidays gone.** Advertising restrictions for broadcasters on Sundays and public holidays – including Christmas Day and Good Friday – have been scrapped by Parliament. Some MPs spoke against the changes: NZ First's Jenny Marcroft said that the "boundaries that we draw around our working lives and our very special celebration days are important to all of us, and we'd be the poorer without them. … We don't buy into the idea that every moment of broadcast has to be sold. We believe in New Zealand's secure times of reflection, family and community." Green Party MP Hūhana Lyndon said, "we actually have to think about how often we live in such a crazy, noisy world and where the sanctity lies when we have Anzac Day, Easter and Christmas"

* **White clothes signal Filipino opposition to corruption.** Church leaders are urging Catholics in the Philippines to wear white clothes on Sundays in October-November as a signal against corruption.

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va) *[For full access, click on article headings (emailed copies)]*

*** Pope Leo XIV: 'Defeating hunger is the path to peace'.**

*** Protection of Minors: Second Report proposes restorative measures against abuse**

*** 8 years after ISIS, two historic churches in Mosul reopen their doors.** In the heart of Mosul's Old City in Iraq, politicians, clergy and members of the faithful gathered to reinaugurate the Mar Toma and Al-Tahira churches, which had been vandalised and destroyed by so-called Islamic State.

*** Pope at Audience: Despite everything, Jesus sustains us.** During his weekly General Audience, Pope Leo XIV reflects on how Jesus sustains us despite everything, saying this truth ought to console us as we experience the ups and downs of life.

\+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

HUMOUR – *"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."* (Phyllis Diller)

SUNDAY MASSES

Omakau: *6pm Vigil (Saturday),* at St Peters.
Alexandra: *9am, at* St John the Baptist.
Roxburgh: *11am,* at Our Lady of Peace.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Alexandra:
Tuesday: *5pm*
Wed, Thurs, Sat: *9am*
Friday: *Noon*

Roxburgh:
Wednesday: *5:15pm* (in presbytery):

\+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

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 the presbytery)

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

Alexandra side chapel, Fridays *11:30-11:45am*.

\+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.
Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.
Phone: 03 448 8202; 027 975 3272
Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz
Parish Council Chair: Kathleen O'Kane
St Gerard's Principal: Julie Flannery; 03 448 8339
Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu). Also visit the website www.catholicsocialservices.org.nz.
Parish Website: www.alexcatholic.nz
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.