



19 JANUARY 2025

**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]

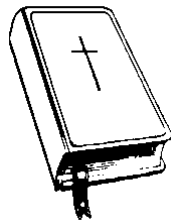
2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Isaiah 62:1-5*. God's fidelity to his people is compared to a faithful husband's fidelity to his wife. Anticipating the joy of a wedding, the writer of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 96) exhorts, "Sing to the Lord a new song."

(2) *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*. St. Paul reminds his listeners that the new wine that Jesus pours out for them is the gift of the Holy Spirit, given to His Bride, the Church.



(3) *John 2:1-11*. John describes the first of the seven "signs" by which Jesus discloses his Divinity. When the wine ran short, Jesus' Mother told him about it. At first he seemed unconcerned about the situation but later he told the servants to fill six large stone jars with water and take some of the resultant 'water-made-into-wine' to the headwaiter. When they did so, the headwaiter expressed his surprise that such a great wine had been reserved for late use. Normally the best wine would be used first.

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS (1) *Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10* (2) *1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27* (3) *Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21*

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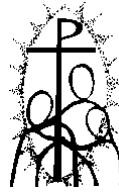
Died Recently:
Anniversaries: George Beckwith, Samuel Taylor, Joan Kennedy, and Gordon and Margaret Cossens.
'May they rest in peace.'

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THE WEDDING FEAST OF CANA: In the time of Jesus, the people's longing for the coming of the Messiah was often expressed in terms of a wedding: it would be a time of great rejoicing, like a wedding feast, with an abundance of celebration. That is the

context of today's Gospel. i.e. Some reflections on marriage:

"Marriage is a partnership of caring and service for another, so that through loving and being loved, each may experience in the other the wonder and beauty of God."



"The vocation (calling) of married people stands at the heart of creation. For what can the world be without love or without respect for life? These two gifts – love and life – come together most intimately in marriage."

"The harmony of the world is linked to the harmony of marriage."

"It is no exaggeration to say that Christ depends largely on married people for credibility in the world today."

"Marriage is not just a romantic feeling. It is, primarily, an act of will, a decision to love another, to stand with another through thick and thin."

*"The primary way married people learn about love of God is through being loved by, and loving, another. **"No greater love has anyone, than to lay down their life for their friend."***

'PILGRIMS OF HOPE' BANNERS have been erected in the Omakau, Alexandra and Roxburgh churches. Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', giving voice to his desire for the year to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment.

Jubilees are designed to be a time of conversion and increased emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness; they ordinarily occur each 25 years. i.e. The last jubilee was the Millennium Jubilee of 2000, inducted by Pope John Paul II. This year's jubilee commenced with the ceremonial opening of the doors of St Peter's basilica in Rome by Pope Francis on the 24th of December.

QUESTION - WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON?

It starts with sunset on Christmas eve, but the ending differs across various Christian denominations. e.g. For Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians and others, Christmastide is traditionally 12 days, from 24th December to sunset on 5th January. In the Catholic Church, since 1969, Christmastide was expanded to run until the Sunday after the Epiphany, being the Baptism of Christ. Other Christian cultures in Western Europe and Latin America extend the season to forty days, ending on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on the 2nd of February. (Wikipedia source)

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS - 'TURN DEBT INTO HOPE' INITIATIVE:

Pope Francis endorsed Caritas's campaign on 26th December 2024 by saying: *"One of the actions that characterises Jubilees is the forgiving of debts. I therefore*

