26 October 2025
The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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]

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARIES FOR TODAY

(1) *Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19*. Written in Hebrew by the Jewish scribe Ben Sira between 196 and 175 BCE, his grandson translated it into Greek around 117 BCE. In his own time Jesus evidently reflected upon these earlier holy books of Judaism, the central message of which is clear: whoever whole-heartedly serves God will be accepted; there is no pretending in prayer.

(2) *2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18*. This is a summing-up and defence of Paul's mission. The sporting images of 'the good fight' and the 'race' are typical of Paul.

(3) *Luke 18:9-14*. Luke is the evangelist of prayer; his parables insist on the need for perseverance. Further, in today's parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector, he highlights the need also for sincerity and humility. The pompous and self-contradictory bragging of innocence by the Pharisee is duly repellent, while the honest self-accusation of the tax-collector is something to admire. *(HW, of Universalis website)*

Readings for next Sunday (ALL SOULS DAY)
(1) *Wisdom 3:1-9;* **(2)** *Romans 5:17-21;*
(3) *Luke 7:11-17*.

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Died Recently:
Anniversaries: Gordon McKenzie; William & Catherine McKissock; David McKinnel.
May they rest in peace'

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MASS IN SPANISH: Next Sunday, 6pm, Our Lady of Peace church, Roxburgh.

LABOUR DAY: *'Catholic social teaching views work as a means to participate in God's creative work, honoring the inherent dignity of every person. Key tenets include the dignity of all workers, fair wages, the right to form unions, and the importance of rest and a healthy work-life balance. Labor Day is a time to reflect on these teachings, celebrate worker rights, and advocate for a more just society where all labor is respected.'* (From AI article, via Google.)

ALL SAINTS DAY, next Saturday, 01 November

All Saints commemorates ancestors in faith who were outstanding both in their witness to Christ and in their love for their fellow humanity (although some humbly admit, through their memoirs, that they didn't necessarily start out that way!). Just as deeds of great endeavour by intrepid adventurers, sports people, musicians and artists can inspire and encourage us, so calling to mind the extra-ordinary lives of saints can be encouraging. But further, as saints are one with God in the fulness of life that we yet journey towards, so we can implore their intercessory support to stand by us yet, because God is not constrained by space or time.

(*NB*: The All Saints day Mass will be at 9am in St Dunstan's church, Clyde.)

'ALL SOULS' CEMETERY VISITATION: St Gerard's School will visit the Alexandra cemetery from 1:30-2:30pm, on Monday 3 November, involving the laying of flowers and some prayers. Attendance and support from parishioners' most welcome. (Walking groups will depart school at 1:10pm.)

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY APPEAL (CORRECTION OF DETAILS): Thank you to the many who have already contributed so generously to last Sunday's Mission Sunday appeal. As some have made known, the details for making online donations were incorrect. The correct bank a/c number is *02-0506-0022477-082*. Also, the account name is not not MissioNZ, but 'Pontifical Mission Societies'. A message occurs saying that the name and account number are only a partial match (a bank security strategy); simply select 'Continue' and the donation still goes through. Alternatively, cash donations may be posted in plain envelopes to: *Missio Aotearoa / MissioNZ, PO Box 4544, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140*. Once again, obo MissioNZ, thank you. -Fr Brendan.

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ST GERARD'S KAPA HAKA GROUP: Congratulations to the St Gerard's children who

participated in the Central Lakes Polyfeast 2025 in Queenstown last Tuesday. To view, go to https://www.miharo.co.nz/central-lakes-polyfest-livestream-2025, and choose Tuesday performances, 11:15am.

PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness
all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards
your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si

(This prayer could be cut out and stuck on fridge doors to use regularly.)

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va)

*** King Charles and Pope Leo made history in the Sistine Chapel by praying side by side** - a first for the leaders of the Church of England and Catholic Church since the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago. (BBC News, 23.10.25) Two themes marked the meeting in St. Peter's, Rome: Christian unity and care for the environment.

*** Holy See: Eliminating nuclear weapons is an urgent moral imperative.**

*** EU and Egypt to hold Brussels summit**, with talks focused on migration, trade, and regional security.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.com):

*** Senators seek protection for Christians in France**, urging their government to protect believers and places of worship. The senators painted a grave picture of growing violence against churches and Christians across the country, and of what the signatories describe as a culpable indifference from public authorities. They observed that incidents involving other faiths often trigger immediate official reactions and extensive media coverage, while attacks on Christian sites and persons frequently pass unnoticed. (Source: Catholic News Agency.)

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

HUMOUR – Cop to motorist: *'Do you know why I pulled you over?'* Motorist to cop: *'Look, with all due respect, if you've forgotten then there's no way I'm going to remind you.'* 😊

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):

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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 the presbytery)

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

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

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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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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.