

PRAYER FOR PEOPLES OF THE HOLY LAND: Last Thursday evening at St Enoch's Presbyterian church people from various churches gathered to pray for the peoples of Gaza, West Bank, and Israel. There will be another opportunity next month, before Christmas, at a time yet to be notified.

The words of the following hymn, used Thursday evening, could be prayed anywhere, anytime:

'O God above, we pray for peace:
let all our hate and violence cease,
that love and justice may increase,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God above, we count the cost
of every son and daughter lost
and bring our sorrows to the cross,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*God, we pray for peace to come.
God, we pray for peace to come.'*

WEST BANK ATTACKS SURGE: Israeli settlers set fire to a Palestinian warehouse and land, the latest incidents coinciding with the olive harvest season, leaving many Palestinians injured. Israeli Defence Force (IDF) soldiers sent to disperse the confrontation were then also attacked by the Israeli settlers. Israel President Isaac Herzog called the scenes "shocking and serious ... Such violence against civilians and IDF soldiers crosses a red line and I condemn it severely." The head of the IDF Central Command, Major-General Avi Bluth, also condemned the attacks, saying that such incidents "are unacceptable and extremely serious"; they "undermine the stability of the security situation".

Israel has built about 160 settlements housing 700,000 Jews since it occupied the West Bank, which is home to 3.3 million Palestinians. The settlements are illegal under international law. (BBC, 12.11.25)

[NB: Gaza and the West Bank are not the same; Gaza borders Egypt; West Bank borders Jordan.]

LOST & FOUND: *FOUND* - The missing set of church and presbytery keys was found on a bench in the Roxburgh church (thanks be to God!). *LOST:* The key to the choir loft in the Alexandra church; if found, please return to its storage space.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC): New brochures and flyers have been received from the CEC, available from church foyers. In her covering letter the new director of CEC, Carly Mulqueen, writes, "We're excited to share that enquiries are increasing – a wonderful sign of spiritual curiosity and openness." To contact the CEC, on behalf of yourself or another, collect a brochure or visit the website www.catholicdiscovery.nz. All enquiries are treated with absolute confidentiality. Support is offered in the following ways:

- Direct answering of questions about the faith;
- Provision of a range of free resources;
- Finding of nearby suitable CEC groups or individuals for enquiry support, (as and when enquirers would be interested and ready to do so.)

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

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.

Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.

Phone: 03 448 8202; 027 975 3272

Email: alexatholic@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.alexatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.

