

**23 November 2025**  
**The 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**  
**FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**



**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) **2 Samuel 5:1-3.** David is a fascinating character. As a leader he had a charm and charisma which were irresistible. There is no doubt that he was ambitious. After King Saul's death he was appointed as king, taking the first steps to setting up the Temple cult, for which he was forever remembered. It was to David that the promises of God's eternal monarchy were given and which were to be fulfilled in Jesus, promises echoed down through the scriptures and lived faith-life (Tradition) of the Church.

(2) **Colossians 1:12-20.** This reading celebrates the unrivalled position of Jesus as first-born not only in the order of creation, but also of resurrection. Paul is writing, with a slight air of surprise, to the gentiles: the gentiles too are enabled to enter into this inheritance, to join Christ in this kingdom, promised to David and fulfilled in Jesus, for the salvation of all.



(3) **Luke 23:35-43.** Luke's stress is on Jesus as being King. The soldiers at his crucifixion mock him as such, but the gospel's use of irony ensures that we understand that they are saying more than they realise. In Luke, from the Infancy stories onwards, Jesus is seen as the true Saviour-God, the servant-king. Hence the crucifixion scene is primarily a scene of forgiveness, the theme which Luke underlines throughout his gospel. Jesus spontaneously forgives his executioners, asking for them God's forgiveness before they even ask for it themselves. He welcomes into his kingdom of

paradise the bandit who spontaneously acknowledges his guilt. It is the climax of the reversal of values which we have seen throughout this gospel that the King should be the wretched figure dying on the Cross, and that homage should be paid to him not by dignified courtiers, but by another wretched figure, dying by his side. (HW, Universalis)

**Readings for next Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

- (1) **Isaiah 2:1-5**      (2) **Romans 13:11-14**  
 (3) **Matthew 24:37-44**

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**Died Recently:** Bernice Beckwith.  
**Anniversaries:** Martin Dunlay; Elizabeth Lamb; Rosaleen Henderson.  
*'May they rest in peace'*

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**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:** Last Sunday the New Zealand bishops wrote a pastoral letter to all parishes across NZ regarding the Church's commemoration of World Day of the Poor. *"We are mindful of the many demands of modern life and the challenges of our current economy. We offer today an invitation for each person to consider how their own context can be shaped by a spirit of Christian charity.*

*\*Might you give weekly an hour of your time to support your local Vinnies group (or other), maybe delivering food parcels or meals to families in need?*

*\*Might you donate an hour of your week's wages to support the Church's charitable works?*

*\*Might you become a local promoter of a Catholic organisation (e.g. Caritas) that responds to the needs of the poor?*

*\*Might you include in your weekly shop something for the local food bank?*

*We encourage you to think of ways in which your giving can have a true sense of sacrifice, used to care for our brothers and sisters in need."* (The NZ Catholic Bishops Conference)

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

**CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC):** New brochures and flyers have been received from the CEC and are available from church foyers. Also, visit the website [www.catholicdiscovery.nz](http://www.catholicdiscovery.nz) for direct answering of questions about the faith, and for provision of a range of free resources. All enquiries treated with absolute confidence.

**ALEXANDRA CHURCH SPRING CLEAN:** A working-bee to spring clean the church will be held on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**. The church has not been spring cleaned for a long time; elevated areas will need to be reached, curtains laundered and windows cleaned, so help from taller men would be much appreciated please. Ladders provided. A big thank you to our small group of ladies who ordinarily keep the church clean and tidy each week.

**COMING UP NEXT MONTH - COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE and BBQ-PICNIC:** This year it's the turn of the Alexandra Catholic church to host the Combined Churches Christmas Carols event. Date? Sunday, 14 December. Time? 5-6pm. There will be a bbq and picnic to follow in St Gerard's school grounds. Bread, sausages, sauce and 2 bbqs will be provided; bring own additional picnic items and drinks. The grounds will be available for children to enjoy games on. All welcome; bring a friend. And pray for fine weather (please)!!

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

**\*Polish, German bishops recall 60th anniversary of post-World War II reconciliation.** The presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of Poland and Germany issue a joint statement to recall the 60th anniversary of an exchange of letters between their predecessors, which launched the process of Polish-German reconciliation in the Church after World War II. In 1965, the Polish bishops addressed a message to their German counterparts. Referring to the still very vivid wounds of the Second World War, the letter contained the now-historic words: *"In this most Christian, but also deeply human spirit, we stretch out to you, sitting here on the benches of the closing Council, our hands, and we forgive and ask for forgiveness."* In response, the German bishops wrote: *"With brotherly respect, we grasp your outstretched hands. May the God of peace, through the intercession of the Queen of Peace, grant that the evil spirit of hatred may never again divide our hands."*

**\* Cardinal Pizzaballa: To achieve peace, we must listen to others' pain.** The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem expresses hope that the U.S. plan will lead to solutions offering "clearer prospects" and relief for the Palestinian population of Gaza.

**\* Pope Leo to young people: Technology can help us live our Christian faith.** Pope Leo XIV met online with over 15,000 teenagers gathered in

Indianapolis, Indiana, and invited young Catholics to grow in friendship with Jesus Christ, use technology healthily to deepen their faith, and avoid using political categories to speak about the Church.

**\* Africa's cry for Climate Justice: Young Catholic delegate at COP30.** In Belém, Brazil, Antonio Jayaraj Korkuvi, representing the International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements, spoke not only for Ghana, but for Africa. Speaking to Vatican News on the sidelines of the UN's Climate Conference, he notes that a decade has passed since Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* urged the world to recognise creation as "our common home." More recently, he added, *Laudate Deum* renewed that call with prophetic urgency. "These documents are moral compasses," he says.

**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.catholicocialservices.org.nz](http://www.catholicocialservices.org.nz).  
**Parish Website:** [www.alexatholic.nz](http://www.alexatholic.nz)  
**Diocese Website:** [www.cdd.nz](http://www.cdd.nz).