

26 JANUARY 2025



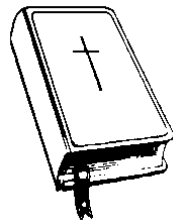
**ALEXANDRA
CATHOLIC
PASTORAL AREA**
[St John the Baptist
(1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's
(1928) Omakau;
St Dunstan's
(1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's
(1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace
(1910) Roxburgh]

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

- (1) *Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10.* The prophet Ezra (about 458BC) reads the Book of the Law to the people and calls on them to celebrate the day that is sacred to the Lord their God, rather than be mournful and weep.
- (2) *1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27.* We are the different parts of Christ's body, united in the one Spirit.
- (3) *Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21.* Jesus proclaims the coming of the Lord's year of favour, and identifies himself as the fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets.



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

- (1) Malachi 3:1-4;
- (2) Hebrews 2:14-18
- (3) Luke 2:22-40

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Died Recently: Raymond Kelliher (Christchurch)
Anniversaries: Catherine Scanlon; Molly Middlemiss; Ray Dryden; Rose Mackenzie.
'May they rest in peace.'

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MASS ON WAITANGI DAY (FEB 6TH, THURSDAY-WEEK): This will be at 9am at St. Dunstan's church, Clyde. **NB:** No 9am Mass at Alexandra that day.

SPIRITUALITY-THEOLOGY WEBSITES, PODCASTS, and PUBLICATIONS for reflection, inspiration and news:

*Called to More: A Catholic formation channel by Franciscan Friars on YouTube,

Spotify, Instagram etc. Short-form videos and podcasts. For YouTube material go to www.youtube.com/@ctmcatholic. For Podcasts go to www.calledtomore.org/.

***Testify Apologetics:** Short, snappy videos (aimed at Millennials and Gen Z) re: Defense of Christianity; Existence of God; Reliability of Gospels; and much more. To view go to www.youtube.com/@TestifyApologetics

***Dr John Bergsma on Scripture.** St Paul Center. www.youtube.com/@StPaulCenter

***Pints With Aquinas:** Aussie Matt Fradd presents long form discussions on mainly Catholic topics. Interesting guests. See www.youtube.com/@pintswithaquinas

***Capturing Christianity.** Exposing the intellectual side of Christian belief. Go to www.youtube.com/@CapturingChristianity.

Is similar to Pints with Aquinas.

***Magis Center,** on the intersection of faith & science. www.magiscenter.com/. Also go to www.youtube.com/@MagisCenter.

***Jeff Vines daily sermons.** Vision Christian Media. Go to www.vision.org.au/category/jeff-vines/

***Fr John McKinnon Gospel reflections** on weekday and Sunday readings. Go to www.johnmckinnon.org.

***Centre for Action and Contemplation.** By Fr Richard Rohr and others. Go to www.cac.org to listen to latest podcasts, daily meditations, and publications.

***Pope Francis Thought for the Day** on the Gospel of the day. Go to www.vaticannews.va/en/word-of-the-day.html.

***The Tablet: The International Catholic News Weekly.** Out of London. See www.thetablet.co.uk. Subscription costs approximately \$45 quarterly, (depending on exchange rates). *"This is, internationally, a highly regarded Catholic periodical."* -Fr B.

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US BISHOPS CRITICISE TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS:

The Archbishop for the Military Services, Timothy Broglio, who is also the president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said in a statement on Wednesday that he took issue with some of the orders, calling them "deeply troubling". "Some provisions contained in the executive orders, such as those focused on the treatment of immigrants and refugees, foreign aid, expansion of the death penalty, and the environment, are deeply troubling and will have negative consequences, many of which will

harm the most vulnerable among us," Broglio wrote. He emphasised that neither the Catholic Church nor the USCCB aligned with "any political party". The Church's teachings "remain unchanged" regardless of political leadership, he said. (See www.thetablet.co.uk/news)

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):
(NB: For those receiving emailed copies, click on the headings to obtain Internet access to the full article.)

***Pope praises Buddhist revival in post-Soviet Mongolia.** Pope Francis meets with a delegation of Buddhists from Mongolia, and discusses religious freedom, the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year, and the "enduring relations" between the Vatican and the East Asian country.

***Churches in DRC launch roadmap for peace in Great Lakes Region.** The Catholic and Protestant Churches of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), present a "Social Pact for Peace and Living Together in the DRC and the Great Lakes" to end the vicious cycle of violence and the humanitarian crisis in the troubled region.

***US Bishops commend decision to remove Cuba from US terror list.** The USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace commends the Biden administration for its decision to remove Cuba from the United States' list of state sponsors of terrorism.

***Pope expresses appreciation for Gaza ceasefire agreement, Cuba prisoner releases.** Pope Francis expresses his gratitude for the Gaza ceasefire agreement, as he calls for it to be respected.

***Aid trucks reach Gaza amid intensified Israeli strikes on West Bank.** Aid trucks continue to deliver supplies to Gaza as Israel launches sustained attacks in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin.

***Death penalty abolished in Zimbabwe: Leave it to God to decide on human life.** The country becomes the 30th African nation to end capital punishment.

***Pope to President Trump: 'I invoke divine blessings upon beloved American people'** Pope Francis sends a message for the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the 47th US President, offering divine blessings upon the 'beloved American people,' President Trump, and his family, and praying that the Lord will help guide efforts toward peace.

***Pope Francis: A woman will head the Vatican Governatorate.** Pope Francis

announces that Sr. Raffaella Petrini will be appointed in March.

Pope to World Economic Forum: AI must promote and never violate human dignity

In a message to the 2025 World Economic Forum taking place in Davos, Pope Francis calls for the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence, which must help human beings for the good of all, and never violate human dignity for the sake of efficiency.

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CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC): The CEC is the NZ Bishops agency that provides resources, printed and on-line, for anyone seeking to enquire into the Catholic faith. The contact details are: *For posted mail:* CEC, PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140. *For email resources:* john@catholicenquiry.nz. All enquiries treated confidentially.

SUNDAY MASSES

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

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 presbytery)



EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

Alexandra side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:50am.

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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.
Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.
Phone: 03 448 8202, or 027 975 3272
Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz
Parish Council: Mr Pat Cooney; 027 768 9918
Finance Chair: Mr Phil Peguero; 027 499 0277
St Gerard's Principal: Mrs Julie Flannery; 034488339
Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu).
Parish Website: www.alexcatholic.nz
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.