



**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]

02 February 2025

**4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C
FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION**

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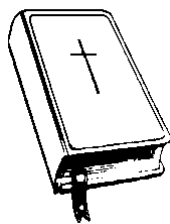
SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Malachi 3:1-4.* A precursor to the Gospel, Malachi foresees that the Lord will suddenly enter his Temple, and the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be welcomed.

(2) *Hebrews 2:14-18.* It is only because Christ is of the same stock as ourselves that he can sanctify us; like sanctifies like.

Christ is also called the high priest. In the New Testament there is no mention of other Christian priests, only elders. The priesthood belongs exclusively to Christ, not to any other. Secondly, stress is laid on the compassion of Christ because he too encountered temptation, but did not succumb to it. Only perfection can sanctify imperfection

(3) *Luke 2:22-40.* Today's Gospel presents the patriarch of the Holy Family, Joseph, faithfully obeying God's law given through Moses concerning the purification of the mother and the redeeming of the child, by the presentation of Mary and the baby Jesus in the Temple. The creche at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome is left in place until today, marking the end of Christmas season.



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

- (1) *Isaiah 6:1-2,3-8.*
- (2) *1 Corinthians 15:3-8,11.*
- (3) *Luke 5:1-11.*

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Died Recently:

Anniversaries: Karen McDonald; Bertrum Compton; Stephen Dallas; Caroline Dallas; Patricia Lockhart; Len O'Donnell.

'May they rest in peace.'

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MASS IN SPANISH: This Sunday, 6pm, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 138 Scotland St, Roxburgh. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding (in Spanish).

SCHOOL YEAR COMMENCEMENT: St Gerard's Primary commences the new school year this coming Tuesday. There will be an opening school liturgy in the church at 9:30am. The Mass of the day remains at the normal parish Mass time of 5pm in the side chapel.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATION APPEAL:

"We hold in prayer all the children and young people who are beginning a new school year and for all our teachers with their important vocation.

Next Sunday, February the 9th we have our annual Education Appeal. Proceeds from the Appeal support our Catholic Education Team and assists them in the support they provide our teachers and in the work of forming new Catholic teachers for our schools.

You can place a contribution in an envelope with your Planned Giving number or by including your name and address so a tax receipt can be issued. To make a donation online please go to www.cdd.nz/donate. Thank you. (Diocese Education Office)

WAITANGI DAY MASS (this coming Thursday, 6th Feb): 9am at St. Dunstan's church, Clyde. **NB:** No 9am Mass at Alexandra that day.

SAINT OF THE WEEK – St John Bosco (1815-88):

He was born in Piedmont, NW Italy, of a peasant family, and raised by his widowed mother. He was ordained a priest in 1841 in Turin. The industrial revolution was bringing enormous movements of population and consequent social problems, especially for the young men who came to Turin to work. John Bosco devoted himself to their care, first of all by means of evening classes, to which hundreds came, and then by setting up a boarding-house for apprentices, and then workshops for their training and education. Despite many difficulties, caused both by the anti-clerical civil authorities and by the opposition of some senior people within the Church, his enterprise grew, and by 1868 over 800 boys and young men were under his care. To ensure the continuation of his work, he founded a congregation, which he named after St Francis de Sales (a saint for whom he had great admiration), and today the Salesians continue his work all over the world. Some sayings of St John Bosco, with regard to guiding and disciplining the young, include the following:

'First of all, if we wish to appear concerned about the true happiness of our pupils ... we must be firm but kind, and be patient with them. ... See that no one finds you motivated by impetuosity or wilfulness. It is difficult to keep calm when administering punishment ... Let us be ashamed to assume an attitude of superiority. Let us not rule over them except for the purpose of serving them better. ... This was the method that Jesus used with the apostles. He put up with their ignorance and

roughness and even their infidelity. He treated sinners with a kindness and affection that caused some to be shocked, others to be scandalised, and still others to hope for God's mercy. ... We must use mercy for the present and have hope for the future, as is fitting for true fathers (and mothers) who are eager for real correction and improvement. ... In serious matters it is better to beg God humbly than to send forth a flood of words that will only offend the listeners and have no effect on those who are guilty.'

SPIRITUALITY WEBSITES, PODCASTS, and PUBLICATIONS:

***Called to More:** By Franciscan Friars. Go to www.youtube.com/@ctmcatholic. For Podcasts go to www.calledtomore.org/.

***Testify Apologetics:** Short, snappy videos (aimed at Millennials and Gen Z). Go to www.youtube.com/@TestifyApologetics

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

***Pints With Aquinas:** Go to www.youtube.com/@pintswithaquinas

***Capturing Christianity.** Go to www.youtube.com/@CapturingChristianity.

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

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

***Fr John McKinnon Gospel reflections.** Go to www.johnmckinnon.org.

***Centre for Action and Contemplation.** By Fr Richard Rohr et al. Go to www.cac.org

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

***The Tablet: The International Catholic News Weekly.** Go to www.thetablet.co.uk to subscribe. .

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

***Pope prays for victims of plane crash over Washington DC.**

***Church leaders urged to invest in media and use AI for good.**

***Migration: US bishops open to dialogue with Trump administration**, contesting allegations made by administration officials, and calling for reforms to US migration policy.

***Pope prays for peace in DR Congo as rebels overrun Goma.**

***Pope at Audience: Let's imitate St. Joseph's holy example and faith**, and invites the faithful to look to the powerful saint as a model of trust, openness and love.

***Pope to Indian Bishops: 'Be beacons of hope for the poor'**, calling on the bishops to prioritize the poor and vulnerable.

***Cardinal Gugerotti: 'Christians must take a leading role in Syria'**.

***World Meeting on Children's Rights: Bring a smile to children suffering.** On February 3rd the Vatican will host the meeting, including the Queen of Jordan and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

***Thailand's first Catholic nursing college celebrates four decades of service**

***Catholic Bishops in northern Uganda identify alcohol and drug abuse as factors contributing to insecurity.**

***Pope Francis appeals for peace in Sudan and Colombia.**

***Pope's Message for World Day of the Sick: Hope strengthens us in times of trial.** God remains close to those who suffer, through encounter, gift, and sharing.

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HUMOUR Son: 'Dad, there's a small get-together at school tomorrow.' Dad: 'A small get together? ... How small?' Son: 'Only me ... you ... and the principal!'

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.

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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.