



**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]

**09 February 2025**

**5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C**

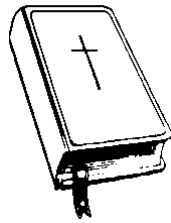
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**SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY**

Today's Scripture readings challenge us to discern God's call to each one of us to become His disciple with a particular mission.

(1) *Isaiah 6:1-2,3-8.* Isaiah expresses his unworthiness to be in the presence of God's great Holiness. Through his humility he immediately receives reassurance of his Divine call.

(2) *1 Corinthians 15:3-8,11.* This reading describes the call received by the apostle Paul, who judges himself to be unworthy of the name or the call, given that he was a former persecutor of the Christians and was the last apostle selected by the Risen Lord.

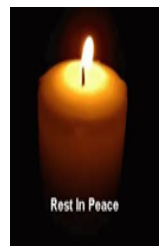


(3) *Luke 5:1-11.* It was the miraculous catch of fish at Jesus' command which enabled Peter to find God in Jesus, and prompted him to surrender his life completely in the service of Jesus as a full-time disciple.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

(1) *Jeremiah 17:5-8.* (2) *1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20.* (3) *Luke 16:17,20-26.*

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**Died Recently:** Monsignor David Bennett (Hamilton); James Bonnar; Christine Righarts; Sr Mary Hanrahan (rsm); Sr Maria O'Connell (rsm); Malcolm Gordon Cameron.

**Anniversaries:** Nancy Millar; Eileen Oswald; Yvonne Tohill.

**'May they rest in peace.'**

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**NO 5PM MASS THIS COMING TUESDAY IN ALEXANDRA**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS**

\*To John and Valmai Breen, who celebrated 56 years of marriage last Saturday, 01 February;

\*To Bill and Michelle Clarke, celebrating 38 years married this coming Thursday, 14 February.

**ROXBURGH TOWN HALL and THEATRE LOSS:**

On behalf of the wider parish area of the Manuherikia, Dunstan, and Teviot valleys, condolences are expressed to the Roxburgh parish and local community at the loss to fire on Thursday of their Town Hall and Theatre, not just buildings but symbols of what were at the heart of the town and district's fellowship and wellbeing, its aroha (affection, care, compassion, empathy – i.e. love). May life arise from the ashes, however possible.

**A REFLECTION FOR WAITANGI DAY**

The following are the words of South African Thokozani (Wonderboy) Nxumalu (1975-2008), poet and painter, reflecting on the importance of remembering one's origins, one's roots, and how the present is a fruit of the past which, if not well known, leaves future generations vulnerable to being misunderstood and misrepresented.

*"Our forebears were fighting for their land in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Each history has to be told so that our children can understand what their forefathers and foremothers went through for them. It does not matter whether you are black, coloured or white people; everyone's history is very important. It has to be there for our coming children."*

Wonderboy's words are poignant for, as history has shown, time and again, lack of accurate awareness of one's origins and influences is a recipe for the development of disharmony, individually and collectivity, in societies. So we keep our nation in our prayers, as well as others throughout our world struggling to understand the present, in light of the past, for the good of the future.

**MASS IN SPANISH:**

The next Mass in Spanish will be on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 6pm, at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 138 Scotland St, Roxburgh. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding (in Spanish).

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ICON:**

Currently viewable in the Alexandra side chapel, the 1.2m x 0.6m icon has been gifted to St John the Baptist church from St Gerard's Primary, which was originally gifted from the Little Sisters of the Poor in Dunedin. Where it will be permanently located in the church is yet to be determined.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Josephine**

**Bakhita (1869-1947); Feast day 08 February:**

Born in South Sudan, she was kidnapped when still very young and was enslaved and sold several times in slave markets, suffering prolonged violence at the hands of her captors. Rescued by an Italian family that brought her to Italy, she not only became a Christian but a religious Sister, a member of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. She was animated by a strong missionary drive for the rest of her life, helping prepare other Sisters for ministry in Africa. Today she is venerated as a modern African saint and as a statement against the brutal history of slavery. She is regarded as the patron saint of both Sudan and the Catholic Church there. Caritas Bakhita House in London, which provides accommodation and support for women escaping human trafficking, is named in her honour. On 30 November 2007, in his encyclical letter *Spe Salvi* ("In Hope We Were Saved"), Pope Benedict XVI relates her life story as an outstanding example of Christian hope. See [www/wiki/Josephine\\_Bakhita](http://www/wiki/Josephine_Bakhita).

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATION APPEAL:**

This Sunday is the annual Education Appeal in support of the diocesan Catholic Education Team, assisting 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](http://www.cdd.nz/donate). Thank you. (Diocese Education Office)

**MOVERS ‘n GROOVERS PRESCHOOL MUSIC**

is a Combined Alexandra Churches ministry. Meetings are on Thursdays at 10am (during school term time – starting 20th Feb 2025) at Alexandra Baptist Church. People are sought to help with welcoming families and setting up morning tea. Additionally, we are looking for another few people to lead music & actions. Training provided. Please contact Rosalie Howley on [rose\\_kiwi@hotmail.com](mailto:rose_kiwi@hotmail.com) to find out more.

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

\* **Pope: Defend human dignity, eliminate human trafficking.** Pope Francis releases a message to mark the 11th International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, and praises the work of those combating the scourge of modern slavery.

\* **The monastery healing Iraq's religious divides.** Fr. Jens Petzold, a Swiss priest based in

the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, speaks to Vatican News about his work building inter-religious solidarity, and serving the tiny, everchanging population of local Christians.

\* **Pope's Mission Day Message: Prayer keeps our 'spark of hope' alive.** Pope Francis reminds missionaries that turning to the Lord in prayer is the key "to keeping the spark of hope alive ..."

\* **South Sudan's Churches launch booklet on nonviolence to foster hope.** In hopes of fostering peace in South Sudan amid its history of conflicts and ethnic tensions, the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) has launched a booklet on nonviolence to serve as a tool to promote reconciliation, hope, and transformation ...

\* **World Wetlands Day: Saving our common home, one ecosystem at a time.**

\* **Bethlehem University remains 'peaceful and resilient' amid tension.**

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**HUMOUR:** Business Manager of a medical clinic to a meeting of doctors and nursing staff: 'A patient cured is a customer lost!!'

**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; 027 975 3272  
**Email:** [alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz)  
**Parish Council:** Mr Pat Cooney; 027 768 9918  
**Finance Chair:** Mr Phil Peguero; 027 499 0277  
**St Gerard's P'pal:** Mrs Julie Flannery; 03 4488339  
**Catholic Social Services:** 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu).  
**Parish Website:** [www.alexcatholic.nz](http://www.alexcatholic.nz)  
**Diocese Website:** [www.cdd.nz](http://www.cdd.nz).