



**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]

16 February 2025

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

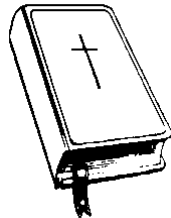
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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Jeremiah 17:5-8.* Jeremiah tells us that true happiness consists in our placing our trust in God and in putting our trust in His promises.

(2) *1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20.* St. Paul is trying to assure his listeners that Christ's Resurrection is our assurance of life and love eternal, for goodness is of God who is our creator and redeemer.

(3) *Luke 16:17,20-26.* Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution when experienced because of faith in him. For in poverty, we recognize our dependence on God; in hunger, God's providence; in sorrow, our reconciliation with God; and in persecution, consolation and joy of standing for Christ with heroic convictions.



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

- (1) 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23
- (2) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.
- (3) Luke 6:27-38.

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Died Recently: Kathryn Ward (Chch); Jocelyn McGarry (Te Anau).

Anniversaries: Mary Truesdale; Sr Elizabeth Mackie;

'May they rest in peace.'

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ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

*To John and Mon Flannery, who celebrate 64 years of marriage this weekend;

*To Jill Paulin, who celebrated a birthday milestone last Saturday.

MASS IN SPANISH: Next Sunday 23rd February, 6pm, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 138 Scotland St, Roxburgh. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding.

ENTRANCEWAY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST - CONCRETE REPAIRS: The hazardous lip to the Alexandra church's entranceway has been ground away and new bitumen has been laid along the border between the concrete pathway and the carpark. Thank you to John Van Eeden.

BBQ & DRINKS FOR TRADES and DIY PERSONS: Presbytery, next Thursday 20th, 6:30-8:30pm. For anyone with practical, tradesperson-like or DIY skills. A chance for social get-together and awareness of who's who. (**NB:** There are no pressing maintenance issues at this time.) Fr Brendan will supply drinks and cook, including meat, salad, bread and sauce. i.e. Just bring your prayers and pray for a miracle!

ADULT FAITH ENQUIRY MEETINGS: For new enquirers into the Catholic faith, introductory meetings will be held in the Alexandra church at 9-9:30am, or 7-7:30pm, on Friday 28th February. If you can bring a supporter with you, that would be ideal. If neither time suited, or for further information, please contact Fr Brendan (see details next page).

SAINTS OF THE WEEK – Sts Cyril and Methodius, brothers, linguists. 14 Feb: Methodius (a bishop, b.826) and Cyril (a monk, b.827) were originally from Thessalonica, but were educated in Constantinople. They travelled together to Moravia to preach the Christian faith and to translate liturgical texts into the Slavonic language. They invented the Glagolitic and possibly also the Cyrillic alphabet. They were called to ministry in Rome, where Cyril died on 14 February 869. After his death Methodius went to Pannonia in Central Europe, where he was assiduous in the work of evangelization. In the complicated international politics of the time he suffered much from attacks by his enemies, but he was always supported by the Popes. He died on 6 April 885.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.com):
 * **Assisted dying shouldn't happen in hospices – palliative care should.** Mary Potter Hospice has stated that palliative care and assisted dying were "two distinct and different services", after media interest about assisted dying not being provided at the Auckland hospice.

* **Caritas calls for rejection of Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill in its entirety.** In a submission on the legislation, Caritas said it believes that "this Bill goes against the common good of all New Zealanders".

* **A common date for Easter would be accepted by Catholics, Pope says.** Pope Francis has renewed his appeal for Christians to celebrate Easter on the same date.

* **School hostel closed in Gore.** Rosmini House hostel at St Peter's College in Gore has closed,

meaning that there are no longer any high school hostels operating in the area.

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

* **Pope asks Catholics to pray every day for peace.** At the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis reiterates and urges "Pray for peace, do penance for peace."

* **Holy See calls for digital responsibility to curb anti-Semitism in Europe.** A Holy See representative at the OSCE has called for digital responsibility and education as a means to eradicating anti-Semitism in online discourse.

* **Pope Francis supports U.S. Bishops in migrant advocacy** ... and their efforts to protect the rights and dignity of migrants.

* **Writers and diplomats join in condemning raid on East Jerusalem bookshop.** A recent Israeli raid on an Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem highlights the growing censorship and suppression of Palestinian narratives.

* **Irish Bishops: Healthcare should never lose sight of human dignity.** ... Upholding human dignity is essential in healthcare and warns against the increasing discussions around assisted suicide in Ireland.

* **Pope: Indigenous peoples have right to preserve cultural identity,** and the natural resources to which they are closely linked.

* **Pope at Armed Forces Jubilee Mass: Be courageous witnesses of God's love.** During his homily at the Jubilee of Armed Forces Mass on Sunday, Pope Francis entrusts their efforts to Christ, recalling that turning to Him in constant prayer is a source of strength for their important duties.

* **Caritas Internationalis warns millions at risk with USAID cuts.** In a statement Caritas Internationalis strongly condemns the decision to suspend USAID programmes for world humanitarian and development aid.

* **'AI will bring upheavals on scale comparable to Industrial Revolution'**, says Archbishop Carlo Maria Polvani, Secretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education and one of the authors of the Holy See's new document on Artificial Intelligence.

* **Church bombed in Myanmar, Cardinal Bo prays for peace and faith.** Participants at an interfaith prayer event prayed for peace in Myanmar, as the military junta bombs a Catholic church.

* **Pope: Music can help the coexistence of peoples.** Pope Francis called attention to the important role music has in creating world peace.

* **EU Bishops appeal for urgent intervention in DRC.** As violence escalates in the Democratic Republic of Congo after M23 rebels resume attacks, the Bishops of the European Union call for urgent intervention so as to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe.

* **Giving voice to the suffering Church in Ukraine.**

Ever since the beginning of the war, the Catholic Media Centre has reported on the activities of the Church in Ukraine and provided spiritual assistance to people who are experiencing the tragedy of war.

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ANNIVERSARY and JUBILEE NOTICES for newsletter: Please phone, email or txt Fr Brendan by the previous Wednesday.

MOVERS 'n GROOVERS PRESCHOOL MUSIC is a Combined Alexandra Churches ministry. Meetings on Thursdays 10am (during school term time) starting 20th Feb 2025, at Alexandra Baptist Church. People sought to help with welcoming families with morning tea. Additionally, we are looking for a few more people to lead music & actions. Training provided. Please contact Rosalie Howley on rose_kiwi@hotmail.com to find out more.

HUMOUR: An Advertisement in a British newspaper: 'FREE PUPPIES - 1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 neighbour's sneaky dog.'

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.
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Email: 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
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz