

**23 February 2025**

**7th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C**



**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 READINGS THIS SUNDAY**

(1) *1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23*. King Saul considered that the young warrior David was getting too popular and ambitious for his liking. In a jealous rage he tried to pin David to the wall with a spear, and then threw him out of court. David gathered a band of supporters about him and escaped to the wilderness. Saul attempted to hunt him down. David, in turn, stealthily entered Saul's camp and had the opportunity to spear Saul to the ground. But he didn't. Instead he chose to show mercy to Saul and did not exact retribution against him, the Lord's anointed.

(2) *1 Corinthians 15:45-49*. Paul continues to explain the meaning of the resurrection of Christians, which follows the model of Jesus' own Resurrection. As the first-born from the dead, Christ is the founder of the new humanity, just as Adam is the founder of fallen humanity. 'Adam' means 'Man', and the story of the Fall in the Book of Genesis is not so much a story of an event long ago as the story of every occasion when humans misuse their freedom (i.e. sin). The good news is that the disobedience of the First Adam is undone and overturned by the obedience of Christ. What was weak will be strong, what was corruptible will be incorruptible, what was contemptible will be glorious with the glory of God.



(3) *Luke 6:27-38*. At first it seems that Luke is concerned only with money, and indeed he is so concerned, for he is always warning of the danger of possessions and the need to use them for those who have none. But after dealing with money Luke goes on to other acts of generosity. We must not judge, but must forgive in order to obtain forgiveness. Most of all, we must be compassionate. Whereas Matthew ends his instructions with the general, 'Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect', Luke focuses on

'Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate'. i.e. Supporting people in need is an affair of the heart.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8 ; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58;  
Luke 6:39-45.

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**Died Recently:** Margaret Connor  
(Dunedin)

**Anniversaries:** William Oswald; ...  
'May they rest in peace.'

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**MASS IN SPANISH:** This Sunday, 6pm, at Our Lady of Peace church, 138 Scotland St, Roxburgh. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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).

**INTERCHURCH 'WORLD DAY OF PRAYER' (WDP):** Friday 07 March, St Enoch's church, 10am. All welcome. Theme – '*I Made You Wonderfully*', prepared this year by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands. WDP is a world-wide movement, across 170 countries; each year the service is written by women of a different country. It has been celebrated in NZ since 1931.

**MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

- (1) Friday 07 March, noon, Alexandra church.
- (2) Wednesday 12 March, 5:15pm, Roxburgh presbytery. (NB: Not 05 March, due to coinciding with Ash Wednesday)

**ASH WEDNESDAY, 05 March**  
1) Mass 9:05am at Alexandra, in the church.  
2) Mass 5:15pm at Roxburgh, in the church.

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**SAINT OF THE WEEK – St Peter Damian (1007-1072; bishop and doctor of the Church. Feastday 21 February):** He was born in Ravenna, central Italy, in 1007 and studied theology and canon law, becoming a renowned teacher. In his late twenties he abandoned all this and joined the Benedictine hermitage of Fonte Avellana, near Gubbio, where he became Prior in 1043, a position he held until

