

02 March 2025

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C



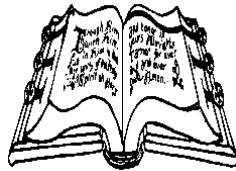
**ALEXANDRA
CATHOLIC
PASTORAL AREA**
[St John the Baptist
(1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's
(1928) Omakau;
St Dunstan's
(1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's
(1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace
(1910) Roxburgh]

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8: What is inside us is revealed through our conversation, just as, e.g., the size and quality of a tree's fruit reveal the care it has received from its planter. i.e. It's prudent to think before we speak because what comes out of our mouth reveals our heart.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58: St. Paul advises the Corinthians "to be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."



Luke 6:39-45: Jesus condemns careless and rash judgments about the behaviour or motives of others by using the examples of one blind man leading another, and one with a log stuck in his eye trying to remove a tiny speck from another's. However that does not mean it is acceptable to be indifferent to immoral misbehaviour, moral relativism and social injustice, for Christ is also critical of these and of the need to address them. i.e. It is not so much a question of 'whether' to speak up, but 'how'.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

(1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10; (2) Psalm 90(91):1-2,10-15; (3) Romans 10:8-13; (4) Luke 4:1-13
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Died Recently: Stephen Higgins (Invercargill); Douglas Burrowes (Gore); Mary Gourlay (Dunedin)
Anniversaries: Joanna Collett; Neville Sklenars; Annie Altenburg; Florencio Guardiario; Ray Garchow; Diane King.
'May they rest in peace.'



ASH WEDNESDAY, 05 March
(this coming Wednesday)

1) Mass 9:05am at Alexandra
2) Mass 5:15pm at Roxburgh

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
(1) This coming Friday 07 March, noon, Alexandra church.
(2) Wednesday 12 March, 5:15pm, Roxburgh presbytery. (NB: Not 05 March, due to coinciding with Ash Wednesday)

NEXT MASS IN SPANISH: Sunday 30th of March, 6pm, at Our Lady of Peace church, 138 Scotland St, Roxburgh. Fr Pat presiding.

INTERCHURCH 'WORLD DAY OF PRAYER' (WDP): Friday 07 March, St Enoch's church, Alexandra, 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.
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LENT
With Ash Wednesday we commence the six-week season of Lent. It is a period of intensified prayer, fasting, and almsgiving leading up to Easter. It mirrors the 40 day period Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for the commencement of his public ministry.
***Regarding fasting and abstinence:**
Those aged 18-59, in reasonable health, are obligated to fast (reduce food intake) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those aged 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on those two days.
Throughout the rest of the year there remains and obligation of Friday penance, which may be fulfilled in one or more of the following ways:
a) by abstaining from meat or some other food;
b) by abstaining from alcoholic drink, gaming or some other form of amusement;
c) by making an extra effort to be involved in family prayer, taking part in a weekday Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross;

d) by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad;
 e) by making a special effort to help or befriend somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely.

***Questions:** (1) *How is it that the 40 day period of Lent excludes Sunday's and the feast days of St. Patrick (17 March) and St Joseph (19 March)?* **Answer:** Because the day commemorating Resurrection (Sunday) has priority of place over and above all other events and emphases, as do the feast days of people who were extra-ordinary instruments of faith, hope and charity towards others. (2) *Why during Lent are there no 'Alleluia's' and 'Gloria', and no flowers placed around the church?* **Answer:** The liturgies are deliberately subdued during Lent so to provide ways to highlight and celebrate the significance of Easter when it arrives. As the late Pope John Paul II emphasised, "We are an Easter people, and 'Hallelujah' is our song!"

***Stations of the Cross:** During Fridays of Lent, 5:15-5:30pm, St John the Baptist church in Alexandra. All welcome.

***Almsgiving** (from Mena Antonio, CEO, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand):
 "As the world's second largest humanitarian network, Caritas is always there in times of international disaster and emergency. Your support this Lent will ensure Caritas has the funds and ability to support those in need when disaster strikes. The Caritas theme for Lent is *Restoring hope: Your compassion in action / Kia puawai te Tumanako*. In this year's Bishops' Lent Appeal, we are encouraging our supporters to donate online where possible, either through our Caritas website or via direct deposit. While this may not be possible for everyone, online donations (1) enable us to receive and process donations faster, ensuring your support goes where it's needed most, promptly; (2) minimise postage and handling costs; and (3) the sending of receipts to all donors for the 2024/25 tax year. However, where online banking isn't possible, a freepost single giving envelope is available from church foyers, for placing in the Offertory collection baskets on any Sunday of Lent, or post for free.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.com):

*** Fourteen men have this month started first year studies for the priesthood at Holy Cross Seminary (HCS) in Auckland.** They range in

age from 19 to 33, with eight being from Vietnam, three from New Zealand and the others from Samoa, Argentina and the Philippines. Overall, there are 26 men in formation at HCS, spread across the 6.5 year programme.

*** Pope Francis: In Lent, compare your life to a migrant's:** In his message for Lent 2025, Pope Francis has urged Christians to examine their consciences by comparing their daily lives to the hardships faced by migrants.

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

*** Pope has isolated bronchospasm, non invasive ventilation started**

*** Caritas and religious leaders address debt-relief appeal to G20.**

*** Faith communities advocate for reparative justice for Africa.**

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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 Website: www.alex catholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz