

ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA



Incorporating
St John the Baptist (1924),
Alexandra;
St Peter's (1870), Omakau;
St Dunstan's (1903), Clyde;
St Patrick's (1892), St
Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace (1950),
Roxburgh.

Newsletter for
SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024

5th SUNDAY of EASTER, YEAR B

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

(1) Acts 9:26-31 This tells how Barnabas introduced the converted Paul to the Christians living in Jerusalem. They accepted him, but by doing so he incurred the wrath of anti-Christian Jews who sought to kill him.

(2) 1 John 3:18-24. To live in accordance with the will of God is to keep the commandments, especially the commandment to love one another.

(3) John 15:1-8. Christ uses the image of a vine and its branches to illustrate the closeness of the ties that exist between him and his disciples.

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: *'I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.'*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *'Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.'*

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

(2) 1 John 4:7-10

(3) John 15:9-17



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Died Recently: Jeanette Harris; ...

Anniversaries: Antonio Velasco;
Bernard O'Neill; Richard and Edith
Chapman; Kevin Norton; Jack and Emily
O'Neill; ...

May they rest in peace.

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NEWLY PRINTED PRAYER CARDS (with the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the 10 Commandments, and The Day of the Lord). Foldable, so as to fit in a wallet. Available from the church foyers, free, for anyone.

CENTENARY REFLECTION (an extract from the address by John Breen): *'Children are born, people age and pass away. Our pastors and other mentors come and go as do we. That is the reality. And we have the everchanging kaleidoscope of people of faith. We need to embrace them, appreciate them, the old timers, the new ones, the lot. They are our people, our people of faith. How we relate to them, indeed to all — people of faith or not — who touch our lives, is, I like to think, one of the very cornerstones of our everyday Christianity.'*

ANZAC Day REFLECTION: (The following is from the foreword by Governor-General Sir Michael Hardie Boys to the Year 2000 publication 'Massacre at Passchendaele – The New Zealand Story' by Lieutenant Colonel Glyn Harpur, NZ Army's official historian.)

"Decades after the First World War it remains nearly impossible to read about the experience of New Zealand soldiers in that conflict without feeling bewildered and angry: bewildered that the Imperial High Command seemed so determined to persist in the face of catastrophe; outraged that thousands upon thousands of New Zealand soldiers' lives were sacrificed, on so many occasions for a fleeting military advantage only, or for none at all. Much of the war's conduct resulted in appalling casualty lists. Many small New Zealand towns lost a high percentage of their young men. The aftermath of Gallipoli shocked the country. France (especially Passchendaele) was even bloodier. We came to understand that war was not, as we had once thought, an endeavour that had any glory in it. We came to understand, too, that even should armed conflict become necessary, it would inevitably be an evil experience, for combatants and non-combatants alike." (Sir Michael Hardie Boys.)

"That so few New Zealanders know anything about the battle of Passchendaele, New Zealand's worst-ever disaster, only emphasises how much we have forgotten." (Lieutenant Colonel Glyn Harpur.)

VATICAN NEWS:

*Pope Francis – *'A negotiated peace is better than an endless war.'* In an interview with CBS, Pope Francis referred in particular to the wars in Ukraine,

in Gaza and others that continue to ravage the world, saying *“Please, countries at war, all of them ... Stop. Look to negotiate. Look for peace. A negotiated peace is better than a war without end.”*

*Archbishop Caccia (speaking at the UN 4th International Conference on Financing for Development): The primary issue *‘is the need to tackle worsening debt crises faced by many developing countries. ... It is worrying that four in ten of the global population live in countries where the government spends more on interest payments than on education or health.’* The Holy See, he reassured, *‘acknowledges the potential for transformative change when bold ideas are aligned with political will and multilateral cooperation.’*

*Cisco, the Multinational Digital Communications Technology company, joined other major companies such as Microsoft, IBM, and FAO involved in AI (Artificial Intelligence) development in recently signing the Vatican document *‘The Call For AI Ethics’*, underscoring the fact that AI is *‘no longer a topic just for experts’* and the ethics of its development is more urgent than ever.

CENTENARY BOOKLETS: Only 12 copies left. Available from the Alexandra church foyer. \$20. Please see Theresa Hughes or Brian McLean.

CLERGY JUBILEE MASS GENERAL INVITATION: Monday 6th May, 10:30am, St Joseph’s Cathedral, Rattray St, Dunedin. All laity and clergy welcome. Jubilarians are: Bishop Colin Campbell, 20th (Episcopal Ordination); Fr Elise Sangco MSP, 25th Silver Jubilee; Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai, 40th Ruby Jubilee; Fr Wayne Healey, 50th Golden Jubilee; Fr Maurice White, 60th Diamond Jubilee (in absentia).

REFLECTION, PRAISE AND WORSHIP DAY: Saturday 11th May, 10am-3:30pm, St Patrick’s Basilica, 40 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin. Bring a plate for a shared lunch; tea and coffee provided. A koha will be taken up. Arranged by Charis NZ Leadership and Worship Teams. For further information contact Kathy Mayo 03 473 7115.

CENTRAL OTAGO REGIONAL CHOIR: *‘Bach, Bacharach and The Beatles’*. Dunstan High School, Sunday 12 May, 2:30pm. Door cash sales, \$30; students free. Tickets available from PaperPlus.

Alexandra Musical Society’s: *“Stars in their Eyes”* April 15 – 18th: Tickets – Alexandra Community House and on line alexandramusicalsociety.com

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP: For all clergy and parishioners involved in working with children and vulnerable adults: 1pm-3pm, St John the Baptist church, Alexandra, on Saturday 11 May. Led by Maria Noonan, the Dunedin diocesan representative on the NZ Bishops Conference ‘National Office for Professional Standards’. e.g. This is for anyone who takes Communion to the Sick, is engaged with altar servers, who prepares children for reception of the Sacraments, who engages in visitation to the homebound, and the likes.

NEW VATICAN DOCUMENT ON THE THEME OF HUMAN DIGNITY: Entitled *‘Declaration Dignitas Infinita’*. To download a free copy go to website <https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Dignitas-Infinita-Ingles-.pdf>.

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ANOINTING OF THE SICK: March, June, September, and December, first Friday Masses (noon) in Alexandra, and first Wednesdays (5:15pm) in Roxburgh.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Rite I) St John the Baptist, Alexandra, Saturdays 9:30-10am. Otherwise and elsewhere upon request.

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION: Fridays, 11:30-11:50am, side chapel of St John the Baptist, Alexandra.

MASS TIMES	Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass
St John the Baptist, Alexandra.	9am	5pm Tues; 9am Wed-Thur & Sat; Noon Friday.
Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh	11am	5:15pm Wednesday
St Peter’s, Omakau	Saturday Vigil 6pm	

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward. 7 Killarney St, Alexandra 9320. Ph 03 448 8202 or 027 975 3272.

Parish Chairperson: Mr Pat Cooney. 027 768 9918

Finance Committee: Mr Phil Peguero. 027 499 0277

Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu)

St Gerard’s Principal: Mrs Julie Flannery. 03 448 8339