

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.]

SUNDAY 12 May 2024

ASCENSION SUNDAY

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

(1) *Acts 1:1-11.* Jesus told the disciples that he would be leaving them but was not abandoning them; rather, they were to wait for what the Father had promised.

(2) *Ephesians 1:17-23.* Each person has been given a share in Christ's grace, as he allotted it, so that all together may be united in the work of service for the good of all.

(3) *Mark 16:15-20.* Jesus said 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.'

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: 'God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: 'Go and teach all people my Gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.'

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) *Acts 2:1-11*

(2) *Galatians 5:16-25*

(3) *John 15:26-27; 16:12-15*



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Died Recently:

Anniversaries: Jim de Thierray, Eileen Porter, Luke Samuel Taylor, Agatha Dougherty

May they rest in peace.

SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN: For families with children for Baptism and/or Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Communion this year, please attend the parent and child(ren) enrolment and presentation, 4pm-5pm on Sunday 19th May (Pentecost Sunday) in the Alexandra church. (If this time does not suit anyone please notify Fr Brendan to arrange an alternative date/time (alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz, or 027-9753-272.)

THOUGHT FROM THE PAST (by Rosemary McLeod, Christchurch Press, c.a. May 2005):

"I admired Pope John Paul II. He was proof that fashion changes while style is eternal. It's quite something for the world to see a working, ongoing 2000-year-old institution that doesn't bend to fit the times: Unlike parliaments, it doesn't change the rules whenever there's a trendy new belief, and unlike governments, the Catholic Church tries to raise people's thoughts to higher things than taxation.

... Religious people are lucky; they have a certainty to hang onto. The rest of us try to work out something for ourselves, but our solutions to the great questions about meaning aren't always impressive. More often they're crass.

Pope John Paul II was the only authoritative voice in our world holding out to tell us that liberalism – the prevailing basis of Western morality just now – can lead to abuses just as much as fascism.

... It's a strange paradox that liberalism supports abortion and euthanasia, for example, but decries capital punishment. Say what you like, but all of these are decisions about who's fit to live, and whose life is inconvenient. If it were not for the Catholic Church there would not be high level debate about such crunch-level questions, with all their implications. If we didn't have conservative institutions like it, we'd live in the midst of headlong change and even more disastrous mistakes than we gleefully make already. The idea that the rational alone should rule us led, after all, straight to Nazi death camps. They seemed so logical (to some) at the time.

John Paul II was not a liberal bending over backwards to try to make the unacceptable somehow OK, which we prefer, but a moral leader who had to take a stand. This is the trap in liberal thinking; which I'm guilty of myself. ...We can judge only on the basis of our belief in good and evil, ideas that have been framed for us by religion, even if we don't practise it."

BLESSINGS AND PEACE TO ALL MOTHERS on this 'Mothers Day'. To read reflections from Catholic women leaders in NZ and elsewhere go to https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/mary-month-of-may-reflections-from-catholic-women-leaders/.

VATICAN NEWS (08 May 2024):

1) Pope Francis urges the faithful to pray the Rosary, especially during the month of May, as he entrusts to the Blessed Virgin Mary the cause of peace for the wars in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and Myanmar.

Please Note there will be no Mass this Friday in Alexandra.

2) "The world today is in great need of the Christian virtue of hope," Pope Francis proclaimed, adding that it also needs patience, "a virtue that walks in close contact with hope." Those who are patient, he said, "are weavers of goodness," always stubbornly desiring peace. "Even when around us many have succumbed to disillusionment, those who are inspired by hope and are patient are able to get through the darkest of nights. ... Hope is the virtue of the young at heart." Pope Francis concluded by calling on the faithful to "go forward and ask for the grace to have hope, hope with patience."

CATHNEWS (<https://cathnews.co.nz>) - Pope Francis on Faith:

'The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that faith is the act by which the human being freely commits himself to God (1814). In this faith, Abraham was the great father. When he agreed to leave the land of his ancestors to head for the land that God would show him, he would probably have been judged insane: why leave the known for the unknown, the certain for the uncertain? But Abraham sets off, as if he could see the invisible: This is beautiful. ... In this faith, Abraham becomes the father of a long line of descendants. Faith made him fruitful.

The Virgin Mary was a woman of faith when, receiving the annunciation of the Angel, which many would have dismissed as too demanding and risky, answered, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). And, with her heart full of faith, with her heart full of trust in God, Mary set out on a path of which she knew neither the route nor the dangers.

Faith is the virtue that makes the Christian. Because to be Christians is not first and foremost about accepting a culture, with the values that accompany it, but being Christian is welcoming and cherishing a bond, a bond with God: God and I, myself and the amiable face of Jesus. This bond is what makes us Christians.

PREGNANCY COUNSELLING SERVICES (est.1980) is a non-profit charity that provides free, confidential counselling and support to anyone involved in a pregnancy or pregnancy loss. A network of branches is operated across New Zealand with volunteers, on a shared roster system, available to talk 24/7. If anyone would like to be part of this team of volunteers there is an opportunity coming up mid-year for training via zoom for our local Dunedin branch. For persons interested please contact Susan on 027 238 3269, or Elly on 0211 676 416, or phone 0800773462.

NEWLY PRINTED PRAYER CARDS (with the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the 10 Commandments, and The Day of the Lord). Foldable, wallet-sized. Available from the church foyers, free.

ALEXANDRA CENTENARY PHOTO AVAILABILITY: See examples on the foyer notice board. Purchase from Donald Lamont or email him on donaldlamont25@gmail.com. \$19 each.

CENTENARY BOOKLETS: A re-run has been undertaken. Copies are available from church foyers. \$20; place in Offertory Collection baskets please.

UPCOMING WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Central Otago Regional Choir: 'Bach, Bacharach and The Beatles'. Dunstan High School, today, 2:30pm. Door cash sales, \$30; students free. Tickets available from church foyer after 9am Mass at Alexandra, or from PaperPlus.

REPAIRS COMPLETED:

Thank you Jim Meehan and Kelly Blakeborough for undertaking flood damage repairs to the "Red Room" of the Alexandra Church, with gibbing and painting respectfully. It is now a beautiful shade of white and looks really fresh! THANK YOU!

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;
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. **Phone** 03 448 8202 or 027 975 3272.

Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz

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

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