

A black and white photograph of a bronze statue of Jesus Christ. The statue is standing, facing forward, with its arms outstretched to the sides. It wears a long, draped robe with a sash across the chest. The face is serene, with a beard and long hair. The statue is mounted on a wall that features a series of vertical, rectangular decorative elements, possibly tiles or panels, arranged in a grid-like pattern. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the statue and the texture of the wall.

(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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Today is the feast of 'Good Shepherd Sunday' throughout the Catholic Church. So we offer Mass today especially for Pope Leo XIV, for his responsibility to shepherd all God's people on earth in the ways of Christ the Good Shepherd.

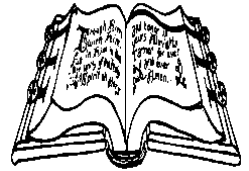
This past week has also celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War across Europe on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. The first public words of Pope Leo XIV from the balcony of St Peter's this past Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, were 'Peace be with you', emulating the first words of Christ to his apostles after his resurrection. May we all, in cooperation with Pope Leo, strive to be instruments of Christ's peace, in and for our world today.

(1) *Acts 13:14,43-52*: Paul and Barnabas opted to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and so, to suffer as he had done in trying to share the good news of salvation. The reading also suggests that the sympathy of the early Christians for the Gentiles occasioned a rupture between those following Jesus and Judaism.

(2) *Apocalypse 7:9,14-17*: Jesus is depicted as both the glorified Lamb and the Shepherd. John's vision encourages his readers with the assurance that every follower of Christ will share everlasting glory with him.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

- (1) *Acts 14:21-27*
- (2) *Apocalypse 21:1-5*
- (3) *John 13:31-35*



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**Anniversaries:** Jim De Thierry;

***May they rest in the peace of the risen Christ.'***

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Today we express our love and gratitude for our mothers by our presence (if possible) with them, gifts, and prayers for them. Wherever they are, may they know a deep sense of being greatly appreciated, cherished, loved, and may they know God's peace, always.

Sunday doubles as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. 'A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects his/her flock - responsibilities that belong to all Church pastors, parents, teachers, administrators and social leaders.' [Fr A. Kadavil, (adapted)]

Fr. Mark Chamberlain, the Vocations Director for the Diocese of Dunedin, reports that Tang Phan, a third year seminarian for the diocese, received the ministry of acolyte last Sunday at Holy Cross Seminary (HCS) in Auckland. Another candidate from Vietnam, Song Thanh, is continuing to study for the IELTS English proficiency qualification in preparation for commencing at HCS next year. Two other NZ-born candidates are currently in a Vocation discernment programme in Dunedin, before application can be made to Bishop Michael to be accepted for seminary formation.

The month of May is also set aside in the Church to reflect particularly on the nature of the vocation of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as his first and foremost disciple. Combining the themes Mothers' Day, Vocation Sunday, and Discipleship together, the words of Pope Leo XIV on Thursday were providential: *'Let us pray together for this new mission, for the whole church. And for peace throughout the world. And let's ask for this special grace from Mary, our mother.'*

(The following is by Dr. Peter Kreeft, American professor of philosophy and theologian. A convert to Catholicism, he is the author of over eighty books on Christian philosophy, theology and apologetics.)

### **JESUS AND MARY**

Body of Christ from Mary's body;  
Blood of Christ, from Mary's blood.

Jesus the bread, Mary the yeast;  
Mary the kitchen, Jesus the feast.  
Mary the mother by whom we are fed;  
Mary the oven, Jesus the bread.

Mary the soil, Jesus the vine;  
Mary the wine maker, Jesus the wine.  
Jesus the Tree of Life, Mary the sod;  
Mary our God-bearer, Jesus our God.

Mary the silkworm, Jesus the silk;  
Mary the nurse, Jesus the milk.  
Mary the stem, Jesus the flower;  
Mary the stairway, Jesus the tower.

Mary and Jesus, our castle entire;  
Mary the fireplace, Jesus the fire.  
Mary God's ink, Jesus God's name;  
Mary the burning bush, Jesus the flame.

Mary the paper, Jesus the Word;  
Mary the nest, Jesus the bird.  
Mary the artery, Jesus the blood;  
Mary the floodgate, Jesus the flood.

Mary and Jesus, our riches untold;  
Mary the gold mine, Jesus the gold  
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*'Everything is a gift from God ...  
We love Mary because we love Jesus.'*

**MASS IN SPANISH:** Next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm, at Our Lady of Peace church in Roxburgh. Fr Pat McGettigan presiding.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS:** To the many who participated in the leaf raking and church property maintenance and morning tea provision after Mass in Alexandra last Sunday. A great effort by all.

**SINGLE BED AVAILABLE (free):** A good quality single bed, suitable for a family with someone no more than 5 foot 10 inches (1.7m) tall. Comes with good bedding. See Fr Brendan to source.

**WANTED:** People to help at Mass as Laptop Operators, Welcomers, Scripture Readers, Offertory Collectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Morning Tea hosts, church cleaners, choir members. Please speak to Margaret Bennie (Alexandra), Jill Paulin (Omakau), or Angela Compton (Roxburgh), or Fr Brendan (all places) if you're able to help.

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### **SUNDAY MASSES**

**Omakau,** St Peters: 6pm (Saturday)  
**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.

### **ANOIDING 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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**St Gerard's Principal:** Mrs Julie Flannery;  
03 4488339

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

**Parish Website:** [www.alexcatholic.nz](http://www.alexcatholic.nz)

**Diocese Website:** [www.cdd.nz](http://www.cdd.nz).