

ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA



Newsletter for
EASTER SUNDAY, YEAR B
31 MARCH 2024.
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.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

- (1) Acts 10:34,37-43
- (2) Colossians 3:1-4;
- (3) John 20:1-9.

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: 'This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: 'Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.'

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

- (1) Acts 4:32-35;
- (2) (2) 1 John 5:1-6;
- (3) (3) John 20:19 31

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Died Recently: Eileen Gale and Michael Wilson.

Anniversaries: Patricia Hagman, Netta Frewan and Bruce McKinnel

May they rest in peace.

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ALEXANDRA PARISH CENTENNIAL

20-21st April this year.

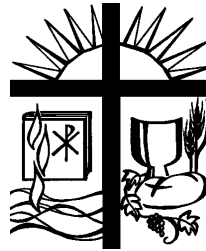
See Details on Parish website www.alexatholic.nz

Registration for the Saturday evening dinner have now closed due to being fully booked. A morning tea in the church foyer will follow the 9am Mass on Sunday.

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THE PROMISE OF EASTER

'I came that you may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)



People were lost, like sheep without a shepherd (c.f. 9:36) ... Jesus said 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' (John 14:6)

'There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies; the heavenly have a splendour of their own, and the earthly a different splendour. The sun has its own splendour, the moon another splendour, and the stars yet another splendour; and the stars differ among themselves in splendour. It is the same too with the resurrection of the dead: what is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ... what is sown is weak, but what is raised is powerful; what is sown is a natural body, and what is raised is a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is a spiritual body too. So the first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; and the last Adam, (Christ), has become a life-giving spirit. But first came the natural body, not the spiritual one; that came only afterwards. The first man, being made of earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. The earthly man is the pattern for earthly people, the heavenly man for heavenly ones. And as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so we shall bear the likeness of the heavenly one. ...

[From the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15:40-50)]

'Death was never of God's fashioning; not for his pleasure does life cease to be; what meant his creation, but that all created things should have being? No end nor term is fixed to a life well lived.' (Wisdom 1:13-14a, 15)

'Do not grieve for those who are asleep as others do who have no hope, for since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.' (c.f. 1 Thessalonians :13-14)

This I know: that my redeemer lives, and he, the Last, will take his stand on earth. After my awaking, he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God. (Job 19:25-26)



VATICAN NEWS

The Pope at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday at the women's section of Rebibbia Prison in Rome, reminds all to never

tire of asking the Lord for forgiveness and learning to serve as He did.

The Thirteen Patriarchs and Heads of Christian Churches of Jerusalem reiterated their call for an immediate ceasefire and the release of all captives. They encouraged the faithful, especially those suffering war in the Holy Land and elsewhere, to fix their gaze on the Resurrection of Jesus which tells us that even in the midst of darkness all death is trampled by His death.

Movie about Sister Cabrini a great success:

A powerful and inspiring film about the life of Sister Frances Saverio Cabrini (1850-1917) , who embodied sensitivity to migrants, faith, and a "never give up" attitude, has reached fourth place in the US box office. Not accepted by a religious order due to her poor health, she went on to establish the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Currently screening in NZ theatres.

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EASTER REFLECTION



Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. "Easter" literally means "the feast of fresh flowers." We celebrate it with pride and jubilation for three reasons.

The first is that the resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith. It is the greatest of the miracles--it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (I Cor 15/14, 17, 20). Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have remained for ever a good person who met a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings and a handful of people might try to live according to them. All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the Resurrection. "Jesus is Lord, he is risen" (Rom.10: 9) was the central theme of the preaching of the apostles.

The second is that Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection, our eternal

liberty and life. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies" (Jn 11/25-26). At Easter we celebrate that, because of Christ, we too will be raised on the last day; But it is also true, in a sense, that we are already being raised, for, by virtue of the Holy Spirit, Christian life is already a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ.

The third reason is that Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement - It reminds us that life is worth living. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the risen Lord gives us strength to continue to fight the good fight, to run the good race, and face with humble and purposeful courage all that would take life from us, because God has not left us abandoned to nothingness. The prayer attributed to of St. Patrick perhaps puts it best: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part." That is the promise of Easter. Alleluia. Thanks be to God.

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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.

ORDINARY 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