

29 DECEMBER 2024



**ALEXANDRA
CATHOLIC
PASTORAL AREA**
[St John the Baptist
(1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's
(1932) Omakau;
St Dunstan's
(1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's
(1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace
(1910) Roxburgh]

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

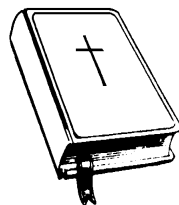
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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28.* Elkanah and Hannah presented their child Samuel in the Temple, consecrated him to the service of the Lord as a perpetual Nazarite, and left him in the Temple under the care of Eli, the priest.

(2) *John 3:1-2,21-24.* As children of God we are members of God's own family, and as such are bound to obey God's great commandment - "Love one another" (1 Jn 3:2).

(3) *Luke 2:41-52.* Luke recounts Jesus' visit to the Temple in Jerusalem at the age of twelve to become "a son of the Law" [*bar mitzvah*] and take up the obligations of the Law. Jesus lingered behind in the Temple, attending the Sanhedrin classes on religious and theological questions as an eager student of Mosaic Law. Finally, when Mary and Joseph had found him in the Temple after three days of anxious search, he returns with them to Nazareth in obedience to them, faithfully discharging all his duties to God, to his parents, and to the community, "advancing in wisdom and age and favor before God and people."



NEXT SUNDAY: The Epiphany of the Lord

(1) *Isaiah 60:1-6* (2) *Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6* (3) *Matthew 2:1-12*

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Died Recently: Thera Zuurbier (Otautau).

Anniversaries: Mary Taylor. 'May they rest in peace.'

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NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES: This coming Wednesday – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

9am, St Dunstan's Church, Clyde

5pm, Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh.

(NB: No 9am Mass in Alexandra)

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VANUATU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

APPEAL: There will be an extra collection after Communion at each Mass this Sunday, in support of the people of Vanuatu, following the destructive earthquake suffered by their nation just on two weeks ago.

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CHRISTMAS QUOTES

"There must be always remaining in every life some place for the singing of angels; Some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful. Old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old hurting. The coarseness of life is saved by the singing of angels." (Anon)

"Light looked down and saw darkness and said, 'There I will go.' Peace looked down and beheld Conflict and said, 'There I will go.' Love looked down and saw fear, and said, 'There I will go.' And the Word of God became flesh, and dwelt amongst us." (Anon)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - A family prayer for use in homes:

'Holy family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in the heavenly home you have destined for us.'

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

(NB: For people receiving emailed digital copies, clicking on the headings below gives Internet access to the full article.)

Pope Francis 'throws open' Holy Door to inaugurate 2025 Jubilee. He reassures during his Christmas evening Mass that the Christ Child of Bethlehem offers the world infinite hope and joy. *"If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever!"* Crossing the threshold of the holy door also symbolizes the journey of conversion, sealed by the encounter with Christ, the "door", uniting us with the Father.

Cardinal Krajewski in Ukraine: May this be the last Christmas of war

The Papal Almoner celebrates Mass in the city of Fastiv after opening a soup kitchen in the war-torn area of Ukraine.

Students of the Catholic University in Erbil celebrate Christmas together

Representing a unique model of coexistence and diversity in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, students of different faiths at the Catholic University in Erbil join together in an annual tradition of celebrating Christmas together.

Pope expresses sadness for children gunned down in war, prays for ceasefire. At the conclusion of the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis calls for a Christmas ceasefire on all war fronts and repeats his message of peace, hope and reconciliation for lands such as Mozambique, Ukraine and the Holy Land.

President Biden commutes sentences of prisoners on death row. US President Joe Biden commutes the sentences of 37 prisoners on federal death row to life imprisonment without parole, expressing his conviction that "we must stop the use of the death penalty at the federal level."

Ethiopian Bishops urge peace in the country. As Christmas approaches, the Catholic Bishops of Ethiopia urge local leaders and the faithful to work towards peaceful coexistence in the country amid ongoing ...

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"It is absurd (for atheists) to complain that it is unthinkable for an unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing and then to pretend that it is more thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything."
G.K.Chesterton.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC): The CEC is the NZ Bishops agency that provides resources, written and on-line, for anyone seeking to enquire into the Catholic faith. The contact details are: *For posted mail:* CEC. PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140. *To email for resources:* john@catholicenquiry.nz. All enquiries treated confidentially.

HEALTH CENTRAL URGENT CARE CENTRE: This is a walk-in medical service for locals and visitors. Open 7 days, 8am to 6pm, for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. 105-107 Tarbert St, Alexandra. See the flyer on the church foyer noticeboards for more information.

HUMOUR: Husband - *"I told my wife to embrace her mistakes. ... She gave me a hug."*

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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 Council: Mr Pat Cooney; 027 768 9918
Finance Chair: Mr Phil Peguero; 027 499 0277
St Gerard's Principal: Mrs Julie Flannery; 034488339
Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu).
Parish Website: www.alexatholic.nz
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz

