

CONGRATULATIONS: To Phil and Raewyn Peguero who celebrated 55 years of marriage on 26 December (Friday). 🤝

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 internal window for more information.

'TAP-n-GO' FACILITY: For people not on Planned Giving, cashless, or visitors to our local churches, offerings can now be made by using the paywave 'Tap n Go' facility available in the Alexandra church (at 9am Sunday Mass), or at St Dunstan's church in Clyde during the rest of the week. Simply select a displayed option and wave a credit or debit card over the facility. **Thank you for your support.**

THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC) is the NZ Bishops Conference agency that provides resources, written and on-line, for anyone seeking to enquire about the Catholic faith. Brochures are available from church foyers. Visit the website www.catholicdiscovery.nz, or write, in confidence, to CEC, PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO THEOLOGY COURSES 2026: Papers can be studied in Dunedin or by distance learning on-line. See brochures and flyers in church foyers to enquire into what papers are available to study, and how to enrol. e.g. *Biblical studies; History; Ethics; Sacraments; Pastoral Theology; ...* For details of papers go to the websites <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/>; Enrol at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment/>; For more information email theology@otago.ac.nz.

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va)
Pope Leo: Announce the joy of Christmas, a feast of faith, charity, and hope: During the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, Pope Leo XIV encourages all to announce "the joy of Christmas" and to celebrate it as "a feast of faith, charity and hope ... God gives us nothing less than his very self, in order to 'redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own ... *The omnipotence of God shines forth in the powerlessness of a newborn; the eloquence of the eternal Word resounds in an infant's first cry; the holiness of the Spirit gleams in that small body, freshly washed and wrapped in swaddling clothes.*"

***Cardinal Pizzaballa: We will do everything possible for Gaza:** Following his second visit in six months to the Gaza Strip, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem laments a "catastrophic situation," while at the same time observing a desire to recover and, for Christians, to celebrate Christmas. Problems are everywhere, he noted, also referring to the West Bank and the tensions between Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements. "In this context, it appears difficult to speak of hope, but it is our duty to do so during this Christmas season." He pointed to the deep exhaustion of Christian communities, "tired from the war," he said. Yet, he continued, "Christ himself entered history through a complex reality. Today, once again we must welcome Him and work for the reconstruction of homes and of hope."
+ + + + +

SUNDAY MASSES
Omakau: 6pm Vigil (Saturday), at St Peters.
Alexandra: 9am, at St John the Baptist.
Roxburgh: 11am, at Our Lady of Peace.

WEEKDAY MASSES
Alexandra: Tuesday: 5pm
Wed, Thurs, Sat: 9am
Friday: Noon
Roxburgh: Wednesday 5:15pm (in presbytery)

+ + + + +

RECONCILIATION (Rite I)
Alexandra: Saturday 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 the presbytery)

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION
Alexandra side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:45am.

+ + + + +

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS
Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.
Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.
Phone: 03 448 8202; 027 975 3272
Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz
Parish Council Chair: Kathleen O'Kane
St Gerard's Principal: Julie Flannery; 03 448 8339
Catholic Social Services: 0800 277 669 (toll-free); 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thu). Also visit the website www.catholicsocialservices.org.nz.
Parish Website: www.alexcatholic.nz
Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz



'HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE. The peace of Christ to you and all your families for 2026.'
(Fr Brendan)