

22 FEBRUARY 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

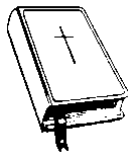


**ALEXANDRA
 CATHOLIC
 PASTORAL AREA**
[St John the Baptist
 (1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's
 (1928) Omakau;
St Dunstan's
 (1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's
 (1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace
 (1910) Roxburgh]

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) **Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7.** *The Fall of Adam and Eve is presented in the form of a historical story of two people, but ultimately it is an analysis of what happens to us every day, an image of how sin happens: we are subtly tempted to go against what we know are the divine commandments for life. Even so, God does not desert the creatures whom he loves. Other cultures have other stories of how evil comes into being, but only the Hebraeo-Christian story ends with the assurance that evil will be conquered.*



(2) **Romans 5:12,17-19.** *Just as the representative of all humanity, Adam, turned away from God, and by his disobedience set humanity on a course leading to disaster, so Christ, by his supreme act of loving obedience, turned back the course of human destiny. Salvation consists in the conscious act of putting our faith in Christ, in the reversal he achieved.*

(3) **Matthew 4:1-11.** *By putting this scene of the testing of Jesus at the beginning of Lent, the Church shows that it sees Lent as a period of testing. We may also see it as the time when Jesus reflected on the mode of his mission, to bring the Kingship of God to a new realisation, not merely for peoples' of the Holy Land, but all peoples across all cultures and places of the earth.*

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

- (1) **Genesis 12:1-4.**
- (2) **2 Timothy 1:8-10.**
- (3) **Matthew 17:1-9.**

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Died Recently: Helen Blick (Otematata)
Anniversaries about now: Joanna Collett; Russell Bryant; William Oswald.
'May they rest in peace.'

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Holy Communion are being offered this year for children (already baptised) who are aged approximately eight years old, at least. Baptism is also offered for any children yet to receive this initial and prerequisite sacrament. Preparatory programmes will be provided as follows:

- Baptism:* During school term I.
- Confirmation:* During school term II.
- Reconciliation:* During school term III.
- Holy Communion:* During school term IV.

To register interest, adult parents please contact Fr Brendan (027-975-3272, or email alexatholic@xtra.co.nz). An introductory enrolment and explanatory meeting will be in the Alexandra parish church this coming **Wednesday 25th February at 7pm**. If that time is unsuitable for families, including families from Omakau and Roxburgh, please contact Fr Brendan to make alternative arrangements.

REMEMBER – RESPONSES TO BP MICHAEL'S

QUESTIONS: Please bring your responses next Sunday to Bp Michael's recently circulated questions. There will be time after Communion, in small groups, for people to share their thoughts. In the spirit of Synodality, it will be a time to simply hear and receive what people have to offer, without query or discussion at that time; rather, just silent reflection. Pastoral Councils will collate responses and later share them back to parishes, when there will be opportunities, at times and places of people's own choosing, to discuss the collated material.

FRIDAY COFFEE - MAKING CONNECTIONS:

Friday 6th March, 9am at Industry Lane café. Join Julie (St Gerard's principal) and Helen (from the PTA) for informal chatting. All parents and members of our parish and school community are very welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (Friday 06 March, 10am, St Enoch's church):

The annual combined churches World Day of Prayer event is being hosted this year by the Alexandra Clyde Lauder Union Parish. All members of Central Otago churches most welcome. Any Catholic parishioners who could help with any part of the service, please contact Mavis Duncanson on 022-028-7005, or email her at worship@alexchurch.org.nz.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Collin Christin, son of Christin and Teena, who celebrated his first birthday this Saturday 21st February. 🙌🙏

LENT

The 'tools-of-trade' for Lent are **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. i.e.

***Prayer:** e.g. Extra opportunities for community prayer include (i) Praying of the Rosary from 8:30am to 8:50am before the start of 9am Sunday Masses; (ii) Stations of the Cross from 5:15pm to 5:40pm during Fridays of Lent.

***Fasting:** For those aged 18-59 inclusive, fasting is tasked for Fridays of the year, especially for Lent.

***Almsgiving:** e.g. The *CARITAS Lent* appeal. Caritas is the world's second largest humanitarian network, and is one of the principal charity agencies of the Church in New Zealand. **To support the work of Caritas, its Lenten appeal envelopes may be collected from church foyer tables.** (NB: Caritas is a Government-accredited support agency for providing relief to people suffering from material hardship, and so donations attract a 1/3 tax refund.) Donating online is also possible and is preferred, either through the Caritas website or via direct deposit.

Almsgiving reflection, by St Leo the Great, Pope.
'There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. ... The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace. ... In the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts.'

THE 'HOPE PROJECT' BOOKLET DROP: Since 2014 The HOPE Project has worked to highlight the value of the Christian faith for our nation. Alexandra churches are invited to help deliver the Hope booklets again this year, as they have done over previous years. A number of specified streets are allocated to each church. **i.e. Anyone willing to help deliver the Hope booklets, at a time that suits over the two weeks prior to Easter, please inform Fr Brendan asap please, either in person or by txtng him on 027 975 3272.** (The coordinator for the Alexandra area is Rev Craig Ashby of the local Baptist church; he needs to know numbers able to help by this coming Tuesday.)

THANK YOU: To those who have done the recent gardening around the sides of the church in Alexandra; a great job.

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VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va):

* **Vatican hosts workshop on how to make healthcare for all a reality.** Over the two-day workshop experts noted that where there is a will, there can be a way to make healthcare possible for all.

* **Cardinal Parolin: Organ donation is an act of love that transcends death.** ... the Cardinal affirmed that every contribution becomes "providence passing through human hands."

* **European Bishops unite in Lenten prayer ...** to implore peace and to remember war victims as part of its 'Eucharistic Chain' initiative.

* **Siberian Christians of various denominations unite to serve the homeless.** Since 2020, Christians in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk have joined forces to organize daily meals for the homeless. Their motto has become: "Mercy is not about pity, but about help."

CATHNEWS 13.02.26

* **Pope Leo: During Lent, let hate give way to peace, hope.** In his first papal message for Lent, Pope Leo XIV has asked the faithful to abstain from words that offend and hurt others.

* **NZ is 16th-most religiously diverse nation in the world.** Religious affiliations % are Christian 40.3, Muslim 1.4, Religiously unaffiliated 51.4, Hindu 2.8, Buddhist 1.2, Jews 0.1, and 2.9 from other religions.

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SUNDAY MASS

Omakau St Peters (Saturday): 6pm vigil
Alexandra St John the Baptist: 9am
Roxburgh Our Lady of Peace: 11am

WEEKDAY MASS

| | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------|------|--------|-----|------|-----|
| Alexandra | 5pm | 9am | 9am | Noon | 9am |
| Roxburgh | | 5:15pm | | | |

RECONCILIATION (Rite I)

Alexandra: Saturdays 9:30-10am; or upon request.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK (Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec)

Alexandra: First Friday Mass (noon)

Roxburgh: First Wednesday Mass (5:15pm)

EXPOSITION and BENECTION

Alexandra: Side chapel, Fridays 11:30-11:50am.

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PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Brendan Ward.

Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.

Phone: 03 448 8202, or 027 975 3272

Email: alexatholic@xtra.co.nz

Parish Council: Mrs. Kathleen O'Kane.

Finance Chair: Mr. Pat Cooney.

St Gerard's Principal: Mrs. Julie Flannery.

Catholic Social Services: 03 4485385 (Mon-Thu).
0800 277 669 (toll-free)

Parish Website: www.alexatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.