

06 April 2025
5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

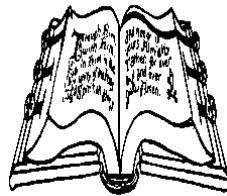


**ALEXANDRA
CATHOLIC
PASTORAL AREA**
[St John the Baptist
(1924) Alexandra;
St Peter's
(1928) Omakau;
St Dunstan's
(1903) Clyde;
St Patrick's
(1892) St Bathans;
Our Lady of Peace
(1910) Roxburgh]

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SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS SUNDAY

(1) *Isaiah 43:16-21*. The prophet focuses on God's forgiveness and desire for humanity's salvation.

(2) *Philippians 3:8-14*. Paul presents himself as a forgiven sinner who has been completely transformed by his Faith in Christ Jesus.



(3) *John 8:1-11*. Today's Gospel shows the inexhaustible mercy and compassion Jesus offers to repentant sinners.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

(1) Luke 19:28-40 (2) Isaiah 50:4-7.
(3) Philippians 2:6-11 (4) Luke 23:1-49

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Died Recently: Ivan Van De Water (Wanaka); Julie Andrews (Waikaia); John Land (Omarama).

Anniversaries: Netta Frewen; Bruce McKinnel James Collett. *'May they rest in peace.'*

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***HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
MASS AND SERVICE TIMES:**

Holy Thursday: 7pm, Alexandra.

Good Friday: 3pm, Alexandra, and
3pm, Roxburgh.

Easter Vigil: 7:30pm, Omakau, and
8pm Roxburgh

Easter Sunday: 9am, Alexandra. (NB: No 11am Sunday Mass at Roxburgh)

Also: Ecumenical services: (1) On Good Friday, St Aidan's Anglican church, Shannon St, a Liturgy of Drama and song tableau, 12-1pm, and (2) On Easter Sunday, a sunrise service, 7:05am, at the Alexandra Lookout, Little Valley Road.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (RITE I)

1. Roxburgh, Wednesday 9th April, after 5:15pm Mass, and after Palm Sunday 11am Mass.
2. Alexandra, Saturday 12 April, 9:30-10:30.
3. Alexandra, Tuesday 15 April, 7-8pm.

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ST GERARD'S PRIMARY (in the Alex church):

(1) **Stations of the Cross**, this Wednesday 9th April, 1:30pm. All welcome.

(2) **Eistedfodd Scripture presentation**, this Thursday 10th April, 1:30pm. All welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Alexandra church): Friday 11th April, (5:15 - 5:45pm), last time for Lent. All welcome.

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FINANCE MATTERS:

(A) PARISH PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS:

(1) Planned Giving tax receipts (Alex-Omakau) are available from tables in church foyers this Sunday. See Phil Peguero after the 9am Mass if any clarification is required.

(B) CARITAS LENTEN APPEAL: The NZ bishops write: *"This year's appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid. France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK have also cut their overseas development aid budgets. These decisions will cause significant suffering for those facing poverty, conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw."* Freepost envelopes are available from church foyers to make donations in support of Caritas' work.

(C) ANNUAL DIOCESAN REPORT: A printed version of the annual Diocesan Finance Report is available from church foyers.

EMAIL and PHONE MESSAGES: (1) For anyone wishing to receive an emailed copy of the parish newsletter, please email your request to alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz. (2) To leave a message on the parish phone number (03 448 8202), or Fr Brendan's mobile (027 975 3272), please speak slowly and clearly because he is getting a bit 'hard of hearing'!!

MOVIES OF NOTE:

(1) **Tina:** A mother, grieving her daughter's death in the Christchurch quakes, provides inspiration and support for students lacking guidance and care. Screening at Clyde Cinema, Monday April 7th, 1pm; Tuesday 8th April 1pm; Wednesday 9th April 5:45pm.

(2) **Bonhoeffer:** About the German Theologian, Pastor and Martyr of World War II. Screening at the Alexandra Cinema, Wednesday 09 April at 2pm, and Monday 14 April at 7:30pm.

CATHOLIC NEWS NZ (www.cathnews.com):

Listen to climate change victims, Fijian archbishop Peter Loy Chong urges, saying that unheard voices on the frontlines in the climate change crisis must be heard.

Hospices face service cuts unless better funding model found. Unless a sustainable funding model is found for hospices, there will be an inevitable reduction in beds and services, says Hospice New Zealand's chief executive.

Sacred silence is envisaged as part of the Mass says Palmerston North Bishop Emeritus Peter Cullinane.. "The nature of the silence differs. Its purpose at the penitential rite is for recollection ... After the reading or homily, silence is for the purpose of reflecting on what has been heard. After Holy Communion, it is for personal prayer. Silence before Mass is for personal preparation."

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va) (For emailed copies, articles may be accessed in full via the Internet by clicking on their headings.)

Bishops of Rwanda and Burundi appeal for peace in embattled region urging all parties involved in war 'to return to the negotiating table to resolve their conflicts through peaceful means and sincere and inclusive dialogue,' and inviting the faithful to pray for peace and to build bridges.

Ehud Olmert: Israel experiencing deepest internal crisis in its history. The former Israeli Prime Minister analyses the situation in Israel, criticising the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu and his right-wing nationalist religious allies, whom he considers responsible for the country's polarisation. Regarding the situation in Gaza, he reiterates that there is "no credible alternative to the two-state solution".

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WASHING MACHINE AVAILABLE: A well looked after Fisher & Paykell washing machine

is available for free, to go to a new home. Phone Paula on 0274727386.

CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE (CEC): For anyone seeking to enquire into the Catholic faith. The contact details are: For posted mail: CEC, PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140. For email resources: john@catholicenquiry.nz. All enquiries treated confidentially.

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QUIZ: (Unlikely answers next week):

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) Where are Chinese Gooseberries from?

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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.

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.

Address: 3 Killarney St, Alexandra.

Phone: 03 448 8202; 027 975 3272

Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz

Parish Council: Mr Pat Cooney; 027 768 9918

Finance Chair: Mr Phil Peguero; 027 499 0277

St Gerard's P'pal: Mrs Julie Flannery; 03 4488339

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

Parish Website: www.alexcatholic.nz

Diocese Website: www.cdd.nz.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: 'Dwell on the past and you'll lose an eye; forget the past and you'll lose both eyes.' [Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn (1918-2008), Russian dissident and acclaimed novelist.]