

ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA



Newsletter for
PALM SUNDAY, YEAR B
24 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) *Isaiah 50:4-7.* Jesus Christ is presented as the "Suffering Servant" of Isaiah's prophecy.

(2) *Philippians 2:6-11.* In Paul's Letter to the people of Philippi Jesus' saving mission is highlighted.

(3) *Mark 15:1-39.* In the first part of today's Gospel Jesus is welcomed enthusiastically into Jerusalem as king and saviour. We are also told how he wept over Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple there and cursed a barren fig tree. Subsequently, in the second part of the Passion reading, we reflect on Jesus' unjust trial, humiliation, cruel torture and crucifixion.

Next Week (Easter Sunday) Scripture Readings:

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

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: *'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *'Jesus became obedient unto death, death on a cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.'*

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We Remember those who have anniversaries at this time:

Fr Dan Cummings and Rose Patterson.
May they rest in peace

CHRISM MASS: This coming Wednesday, 27 March, 10:00am, St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin. If anyone is able to attend and to receive the oils from Bp Michael on behalf of our pastoral area, please let Fr Brendan know.
NB: 9am Liturgy of the Word instead of Mass in Alexandra on Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Holy Thursday (March 28)

***7pm** 'Mass of the Lord's Supper', St John the Baptist, Alexandra. (NB: No 9am Mass).

Good Friday (March 29), 'The Lord's Passion':

***9:30am** Ecumenical Service at St Enoch's, Alexandra;

***3pm** Passion service, St John the Baptist, Alexandra:

***3pm** Passion service, Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh. (note no midday mass Friday)

Easter Vigil 'Service of Light' Mass (Saturday March 30) NB: The 'Service of Light' Mass is the central Mass of the Church's liturgical year.

***7:30pm**, St John the Baptist, Alexandra.

(NB: No 6pm vigil Mass at Omakau)

***8pm**, Our Lady of Peace, Roxburgh.

(NB: No 11am Mass Sunday morning)

Easter Sunday Mass (Mar 31):

***9am**, St John the Baptist, Alexandra.

Also - Inter-church Sunrise Service: 7:30am, Alexandra Lookout, Little Valley Road. All welcome.

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.

HELP WANTED: To deliver 'Hope' booklets across Alexandra letterboxes during Holy Week. An ecumenical initiative involving all churches. Just 1 hour for at least 6 people for our allocated streets. If you can help please meet at the presbytery this coming Tuesday at 10am.

VATICAN NEWS (20/3/24): *Pope Francis praised the virtue of prudence, commenting that Jesus does not only want us to become saints, but "intelligent" ones, and exercising the virtue of prudence helps us become so. *Under the banner 'Migrants challenge us as Christians' the pope urged bishops from the border regions of Colombia and Costa Rica, along with the Bishops of Panama, to "eradicate the indifference" toward

migrants and refugees passing through the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - From Br Mark McKeon, De La Salle Brothers, Bethlehem University, Israel-Palestine. 18 March 2024.

This time two years ago I was involved in the formation of seminarians at Holy Cross seminary in Auckland. In September 2022 I returned to Bethlehem University which is located in the West Bank of Palestine. We are just 8 kilometres from Jerusalem, but the Israeli checkpoint and "separation wall" makes it a challenging endeavour to travel that short distance. You have no doubt been horrified with all the images coming out of Gaza. It has been heart breaking for me living with people personally affected by this human tragedy. Many of our students and employees have family members in Gaza. One of our faculty lost 12 members of her family when a missile struck the church in which they were sheltering. The war has meant that our classes are taught in hybrid fashion, with some attending face to face and others who join online. For those who join online it is either because it is too dangerous to travel due to potential settler attacks within the West Bank or they cannot afford the transport costs. Families lost a steady source of income when the borders were closed preventing their fathers from working in the construction sector in Israel. It is sad to say there is a sense of hopelessness here at the moment. The people here feel forgotten. I am witnessing first hand it is the innocent that suffer most in a time of war. Yet this is a place of blessing for me. I love the people here. I will be in the Old City of Jerusalem for the last days of Holy Week and will keep your communities at St John the Baptist, St Peter's, and Our Lady of Peace in my prayers. Please pray for us here, that a spirit of compassion may penetrate the hardened hearts of those on both sides of the war who are making the decisions. Peace and blessing. Brother Mark.

[Additionally (from Fr Brendan): On Good Friday the NZ bishops ask that a collection be taken up for the support of Holy Places of Israel-Palestine and the people who administer and upkeep them. Further, I am sure brief emails of support would be much appreciated by those trapped in the middle of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Br Mark's email address is markmfsc@gmail.com.]

FOR SALE: Cyclone exercycle, near-new. Offers accepted; proceeds to Catholic Social Services. If interested and to view, see Fr Brendan.

Morning Tea this morning following mass – all welcome!

A PRAYER MANTRA (10 prayers to repeat cyclically, as, e.g., a decade of the rosary)

- Beauty, Light, Life, Truth, Liberty, Peace.
- Deliverance, Enlightenment, Conversion, Transformation, Sanctification.
- Integrity, Authenticity, Charity, Generosity, Fidelity, Temperance, Respect.
- For purity of mind and heart, body and soul.
- For good, sincere, warm, respectful, and enduring friendships.
- For family, friends, associates and acquaintances: Watch over them Lord, grant them faith and salvation, keep them in your care, and bless them with your peace.
- Holy Mary, mother of God, help of Christians, pray for us.
- Saint Joseph, carer of Christ, guardian of God, pray for us.
- St Joachim and St Anne, pray for us.
- All holy men and women, pray for us.

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