

ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA



[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.]

SUNDAY 19 May 2024

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

- (1) *Acts 2:1-11*. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.
- (2) *Galatians 5:16-25*. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit, working in all sorts of different ways in different people; it is the same God who is working in all of them.
- (3) *John 15:26-27; 16:12-15*. 'As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.'

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: "Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (Trinity Sunday)

- (1) *Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40*
- (2) *Romans 8:14-17*
- (3) *Matthew 28:16-20*



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Died Recently:

Anniversaries: Rev. B.R. O'Brien, Neville Altenburg, Dorothy Dunlay, Florence Breen, Robert Angus, Kirsty Grainger and Henry Dougherty

May they rest in peace

SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN: For families with children for Baptism and/or Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Communion this year, please attend the parent and child(ren) enrolment and presentation, 4pm-5pm this Sunday afternoon, 19th May (Pentecost Sunday) in the Alexandra church. (If this time does not suit anyone please notify Fr Brendan to arrange an alternative date/time (alexatholic@xtra.co.nz, or 027-9753-272.)

PENTECOST:

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, which celebrates the fulfilment of Christ's promise to his disciples that he would remain with them always, everywhere, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What he was to the first disciples in his physical presence so he would now be spiritually, by way of prayer, apostolic teaching, the scriptures, the sacraments and acts of charity, through which he would continue to enlighten and teach, encourage and guide, inspire and stir their hearts and minds to love as he loved.



There are two accounts of the Pentecost event in the scriptures:

- (1) The Gospel of John associates it with the evening of Easter Sunday;
- (2) The Acts of the Apostles associates it with 50 days after the Resurrection. ('Pente' means 'fifty').

Background: With regard to John's account, the risen Christ appeared among the Apostles who were in hiding and he "breathed on them and said... 'Receive the Holy Spirit'." They experienced something like 'Tongues of Fire' over their heads, and a 'Powerful Wind'. (These are both Old Testament symbols indicating the presence of the Spirit of God.)

The Pentecost event is traditionally regarded as the birth of the Church, for the disciples changed from being a disheartened, fearful group to one that was dynamic, invigorated and outgoing.

There is a parallel here with the creation story in Genesis: "God formed man and woman, ... and breathed into them the Breath of Life." i.e. The coming of the Holy Spirit awakes the dead to life ... Likewise, due to Pentecost, the Church is created for this task.

Last week we celebrated the solemnity known as the Ascension, commemorating Christ's physical departure from his apostles. Instead of being despondent, the apostles returned to Jerusalem full of enthusiasm and optimism. Why?

First, Jesus had filled them with assured confidence that he would not leave them abandoned; he still cared for them.

Second, they would be given the means to undertake their mission, that is, the Holy Spirit, to guide, inspire, correct, and encourage them.



Third, he gave renewed purpose and meaning to their lives. All that they had endured with him now made sense to them; they had a mission with a foreseeable outcome that would be free of all earthly constraints and oppressions, cynicism and suffering. Unconstrained life and love, liberty and peace was God's desire for them and all humanity, their destiny. That was the good news worth sharing.

VATICAN NEWS

1) In his Message for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place on 28 July 2024, Pope Francis recognizes the situation of many elderly people today, and assures them: "God never abandons His children, never."

2) In a wide-ranging interview with Vatican Media, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN in New York, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, observes that 'military solutions' do not work and therefore other paths must be taken; and warns that dangers of nuclear arms pose concrete threats to the existence of humanity. (14 May)

3) Pope asks international community to help flood-hit Afghanistan.

4) Pope at audience: 'Like every human person, Christians are capable of "all the forms of love in the world": romantic love, love of friends, country, humanity. "But there is a greater love," Pope Francis said, "which comes from God and is directed towards God, and enables us to love God... and to love our neighbour as God does." This is the virtue of charity, which enables us not only to love our friends and family but to love even those who are difficult to love. "This is 'theological'," the Pope said, because "it comes from God; it is the work of the Holy Spirit in us."

5) Pope Francis blessed the "Voice of the Unborn" bell, which will be taken to Kazakhstan, to serve as a reminder of the importance of protecting human life from conception to natural death.

6) Scientists, regional and local leaders, and experts from universities around the world met in the Vatican for a Summit entitled, "From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience," promoted by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. (15 May)

PREGNANCY COUNSELLING SERVICES (est. 1980) is a non-profit charity that provides free, confidential counselling and support to anyone involved in a pregnancy or pregnancy loss. A network of branches is operated across New Zealand with volunteers, on a shared roster system, available to talk 24/7. If anyone would like to be part of this team of volunteers there is an opportunity coming up mid-year for training via zoom for our local Dunedin branch. For persons interested please contact Susan on 027 238 3269, or Elly on 0211 676 416, or phone 0800773462.

THE ROSARY: The month of May is known as the month of the Rosary, whereby the intercessory support of Mary, Mother in faith of all the baptised, is sought to help us reflect upon the life and ministry of her son Jesus Christ as both human brother and divine Saviour. Pope Francis has asked for the praying of the Rosary in support of diplomatic efforts to end the wars raging across Ukraine, Israel, and Burma.



The Rosary, as initially designed, comprised 3 themes (called 'Mysteries'), each centring on 5 pivotal aspects of Christ's life. i.e. The 'Joyful Mysteries' focused on his origins, the 'Sorrowful Mysteries' his suffering and death, and the 'Glorious Mysteries' his resurrection etc. In 2002 Pope John Paul II instituted a 4th theme of five aspects, called the Luminous Mysteries, centred on Christ's ministry. i.e. His Baptism, the Wedding feast of Cana, the Sermon on the Mount, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist. ie Now 20 aspects of Christ's life and ministry are covered (4 themes, each with 5 aspects).

An adaptation: A 'Rosary' is traditionally undertaken by praying, at one sitting, an 'Our father, 10 'Hail Mary's, and a 'Glory Be' for each of the 5 themes within a Mystery. A modern adaptation involves praying one Hail Mary for each of the twenty aspects of Christ's life covered, to as to highlight the interconnectivity of everything he stood for as was focused on. The adaptation has been referred to as a 'one shop stop' method for people enquiring into the Christian faith and seeking an overview of who Christ was and what was of most significance for him.

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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.

EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION:

Fridays, 11:30-11:50am, side chapel of StJohn the Baptist, Alexandra.

Please Join us for morning tea immediately after the Sunday Mass, Alexandra. An ideal to get to know your parish family and share in fellowship. Everyone is welcome,

| <u>MASS TIMES</u> | 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. Phone 03 448 8202 or 027 975 3272.

Email: alexcatholic@xtra.co.nz

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



Henry Dougherty

“They were filled with the Holy spirit, and began to speak in different languages” - Acts 2:1-11