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Ph: 03 448 5385 (Mon-Thurs)

**St Gerard's Primary
School
Principal**
Mrs Julie Flannery

**Director of Religious
Studies**
Mrs Neroli Laidlaw

Board Chair
Mr Nathan McLean



Third Sunday of Advent 17th December 2023

Mass times

Alexandra:
Tuesdays 5:00pm (chapel)
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
9:00am (chapel)
Friday 12. MD (chapel)
Sundays 9.00 am (church)

Roxburgh
Wednesdays 5:15pm (presbytery)
Sundays 11.00am (church)

Omakau:
Christmas Vigil Mass Sunday 6pm

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Alexandra (chapel)
Fridays 11:00am
11:45am (Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

Alexandra
Saturday 11:30—Noon or by request
Advent Reconciliation:
Tuesday 18th 4pm—4.30pm



ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Quarterly

Sunday Readings:

1. Isaiah 51: 1-2, 10-11
2. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
3. Gospel of John 1:6-8, 19-28

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring
Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Communion antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come and he will save us.



Let us remember and pray for
those who have
Died Recently

And for those who have
Anniversaries

About this time:

Heather McElligott

**Requiescant
in Pace**



THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today we light the Rose candle for the
third Sunday (also known
as Gaudate Sunday)
To express the joy and anticipation of
the coming Christmas

A Prayer for Joy

Heavenly Father, This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth brings us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our lives, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

On Sale now

**COLUMBAN
ART
CALENDARS
\$12 EACH**
(From Church Foyer)

**An ideal
Christmas gift**



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

OMAKAU :
Christmas Vigil Sunday 24th at 6pm
(with carols at 5.30pm)

ALEXANDRA:
Christmas Vigil Sunday 24th at 8pm
(with carols at 7.30pm)

Christmas Day 9am

ROXBURGH:
Christmas Day 11am

Roster for Next Sunday 24th and Christmas Services

December 24th and 25th	Alexandra St John the Baptist 24 th 10am	Alexandra Christmas Vigil 24 th 8pm	Alexandra Christmas Day 25 th 9am	Omakau St Peters Saturday Vigil	Roxburgh Our Lady of Peace 24 th 11am	Roxburgh Christmas Day 25 th 11am
Greeters	Barbara and Peter Clark	Dona Foley Glenda Chapman	Liz Anderson Nicole Heward	Volunteer	Tony O'Driscoll	Margaret Card
OHP	Peter Mulvihill	Sim Family	Marty and Rosemary	Jane	Volunteer	Angela Compton
Intro/ POF	Kevin MacKenzie	Margaret Bennie	Nic Lanham	Mike Kotkamp	Volunteer	Volunteer
Readers	Coral Sawers Olivia Delport	Barry Gibbons Barbara Grubb	Margaret Bennie Christine Lanham	Jill Paulin	Glen Dyson	Michelle Clarke
Offertory gifts	Coral and John Sawers	Glenda Chapman Gerard Rogatski	Marie and Gerald Healey	Volunteer	Michelle and Bill	Tony and Lynette
Special Ministers	Jude Parbhu Kathleen O'Kane Rosemary Bond	Margaret Dona and Barry	Margaret B Jude Parbhu Rosemary B	Pat Cooney	John McKinnel	Bill Clarke
Cleaners	Nicole Heward Glenda Chapman			Win Donnelly	Glen Dyson	
Sacristans Alex	SU: Margaret TU: Donald / Jim/	Margaret Donald Jim	Margaret Jim/ Donald/ Nicole	-	-	
Altar Servers Alex	CB: Freddie CH: Tommy CH: Stefan	CB: Varna CH: Liberty CB: Curtis		-	-	

Notices from Titipounamu - Study and Joy

Christmas Story with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2021/12/23/the-christmas-story/>

YouTube Recordings

YouTube and Muffin Talk recordings are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

Our next Zoom sessions will be in February/March on the theme of

Miracles

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

St John the Baptist Parish Centennial



Saturday 20th April 2024

Dinner at the Alexandra District Club

Sunday 21st April:

Mass followed by morning tea

Register Now @

www.alexatholic.nz

Or pick up a hard copy in the foyer

LAUDATO SI': Our Common Home

"A voice crying in the desert ..."



John 1: "... make a straight way for the Lord." D H Wansbrough OSB: "All through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is ... ; How can I find Jesus in the crowded events of my busy life?" Francis-LS 217: "The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion What (we) all need is an ecological conversion...".

COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CAROLS

7PM TONIGHT (SUNDAY 17TH)

ST ENOCH'S CHURCH CENTENNIAL AVENUE

WITH SUPPER TO FOLLOW

ALL WELCOME



Please join us at the conclusion of mass for morning tea and fellowship Everyone is welcome!



Next Weeks Readings— 4th Week of Advent

1. Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16
2. Romans 16 : 25-27
3. Gospel of Luke 1: 26-38



Vigil Mass Readings: 6pm and 8pm 24th December

1. Isaiah 62: 1-5
2. Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25
3. Gospel of Matthew 1:1—25



Christmas Day Readings

1. Isaiah 52: 7-10
2. Hebrews 1: 1-6
3. Gospel of John 1: 1-18



A Reminder of the diocesan collection for our Christmas offering will be taken on Christmas Day.
All offerings appreciated



Alexandra Community Christmas Day BBQ Lunch 2023

Monday 25th December 12 Noon

Free Event: All Welcome

St Enoch's Church Grounds,
12 Centennial Ave, Alexandra



*Francisca and Peace are new to our parish. and to New Zealand. They have no family here in to share their special Wedding Day and they are just getting to know people, so there were not many to invite to their wedding..... A few parishioners got together and thought it would be great if the parish could share in celebrating their happy day with them. Francisca and Peace agreed!
Details of how you can be part of this day will be shared in the weeks ahead.
SAVE the DATE.....*



Prepare.

— by Cindy Thomas

A feeding trough in a hillside cave,
a little straw, a swaddling cloth –
A baby took his first breath
unnoticed by a town that had
no room.

Nobody knew that time had been invaded,
split in two, as human and divine
were forever fused
in flesh and bone, tissue and blood,
the fragile body of a newborn child.
Nobody knew that within his tiny chest
beat the very heart of God.

It doesn't take much to receive him.
No fanfare, no gilded cradle. He doesn't ask
to be swaddled in silk or
adorned with gold.
He only asks for a longing heart,
an earnest cry, a yearning soul
where he can grow,
human and divine forever fused
in you.



*Come along and
celebrate the wedding
of
Francisca and Peace
on
26 January 2024 at 4 pm
at St John the Baptist Church
Alexandra
followed with
a meal in the parish Hall
All Welcome*

*Francisca
&
Peace*