

## 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 26 May 2024**  
**TRINITY SUNDAY**

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### SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

(1) *Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40.* God created and loves us. God gives generously and freely. There is one true God, majestic yet personal, beyond time yet present, drawing us on from within.

(2) *Romans 8:14-17.* God's spirit is present within us and we are all God's children.

(3) *Matthew 28:16-20.* Jesus sends out the disciples on their mission to all peoples, instructing them to share with others as he had shared with them, promising to be with them always. i.e. As love and hope are necessarily outreaching and other-focused, so is faith.

### TODAY'S RESPONSES

**PSALM:** 'Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.'

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** 'Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come.'

### SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

#### (Body and Blood of Christ)

(1) *Exodus 24:3-8*

(2) *Hebrews 9:11-15*

(3) *Mark 14:12-16, 22-26*

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**Died Recently:** Angela Roe.

**Anniversaries:** Bishop Len Boyle, Eileen and John Ferguson

May they rest in peace.

**SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN:** For families with children aged seven plus, there is an enrolment meeting this afternoon, 4pm-5pm in the Alexandra church to discuss the outline of the Baptism and/or Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Communion programme this year. For any parents who have yet to receive these sacraments but would like to do so with their children, please see Fr Brendan afterwards.

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

*'To God the Father of the world,  
His Son through whom he made all things,  
and Holy Spirit, bond of love,  
All glad creation glory sings.'*  
(From an ancient hymn)

The doctrine of the Trinity stands at the centre of the Christian faith, and is the specifically Christian way of speaking of God. To God the Father is attributed the work of creation; to God the Son the work of redemption (of reconciling and healing); to the Holy Spirit the work of sanctification and guidance in truth.



The word 'Trinity' cannot be found either in the Old Testament or the New. However the elements of what became the doctrine of the Trinity are. e.g. The last instruction of Christ to his disciples was 'Go, baptize all nations, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matt 28:19).

The doctrine of the Trinity does not profess three gods, and does not profess that their divinity is shared among each person. Rather, **"The Father is that which the Son is, the Son is that which the Father is, the Father and Son is that which the Holy Spirit is, i.e. by nature, one God."** (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Clause 253).

The scientist Dr. Henry Morris noted that the entire universe is Trinitarian by design, for it consists of three things: matter, space, and time. Take away any one of those three and the universe would cease to exist. But each one of those is itself a trinity. Matter = mass + energy + motion. Space = length + height + breadth. Time = past + present + future. Thus the whole universe witnesses to the character of the God who made it. So do human relationships when engaged in with integrity, for there we see a Lover, a Beloved, and the Love that bonds them.

There is an old story about pilgrims who travelled up a high mountain to a cave where a very holy monk lived his quiet life of prayer. "Help us to find God" they asked the holy man. The monk shook his head and said, "No one can help you find the place where God is." "Why not," they demanded. "The monk only answered, "For the same reason that no one can help a fish find the ocean."

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Billie Tohill who celebrates her ??th birthday this coming Tuesday.

**NZ CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER:** From July 2024 NZ Catholic will be distributed as a monthly digital publication. To obtain instructions on how you would like any balance on your current subscription to be distributed please go to the link <https://nzcatholic.org.nz/refund/>. Feel free to contact Anne Rose on 09 360 3059 with any queries. You may also email your details to [accounts@cda.org.nz](mailto:accounts@cda.org.nz) or return printed forms to Catholic Diocese of Auckland, Private Bag 47904, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144.

*'The Diocese remains committed to sharing our Catholic news and intends developing a new, free, monthly digital publication with enhanced use of video to include prayer, homilies, event highlights, appeals, teaching, explaining, and helping to encourage a healthy dialogue our world so desperately needs. I ask for your prayerful support as we make this transition.*

*Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd.'*

✠ \_Stephen M Lowe. **Bishop of Auckland.**



**CANCER SOCIETY APPEAL:** The Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to help us with the planning and running of Daffodil Day (30th August). As a charity, Daffodil day is our biggest fundraiser. Funds go back into the local community enabling us to support families. We are looking for

some supporters to be local Area Coordinators in Alexandra, Cromwell and Roxburgh. If you would like to know more please contact Alice Sutcliffe, Community Coordinator for the Central Lakes and Central Otago Cancer Society, on 021 948 711 or via email [alice.sutcliffe@cansoc.org.nz](mailto:alice.sutcliffe@cansoc.org.nz)

**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. Branches are 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.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK:** St Philip Neri, born in Florence in 1515, died in Rome 1595. Feast day 26 May. At the

age of eighteen he went to Rome to study, initially earning his living as a tutor. He was ordained a priest in 1551 and undertook chaplaincy to young men, rich and poor alike, with religious discussions and by organising charitable enterprises. St Philip was an enemy of solemnity and conventionality. When some of his more pompous penitents made their confession to him (he was famous as a confessor) he imposed salutary and deflating penances on them, such as walking through the streets of Rome carrying his cat. When a novice showed signs of excessive seriousness, Philip stood on his head in front of him, to make him laugh. When people looked up to him too much, he did something ridiculous so that they should not respect someone who was no wiser – and no less sinful – than they were. In every case there was an excellent point to his pranks: to combat pride, or melancholy, or imbalanced praise.

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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 St John the Baptist, Alexandra.

<b>MASS TIMES</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>Weekday Mass</b>
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