

ALEXANDRA CATHOLIC PASTORAL AREA



Newsletter for
SUNDAY
07 APRIL 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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

- (1) Acts 4:32-35. The early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy -- sharing, sacrificial love -- practiced by the early Christians.
- (2) 1 John 5:1-6. St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting His Son Jesus Resurrection from the dead and a glorious Ascension into Heaven, thus giving us the assurance of our own resurrection.
- (3) John 20:19-31. Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the sacrament of Divine Mercy, entrusting his apostles with the power to forgive sins. Responding to the doubting Thomas' profession of Faith, "*My Lord and my God,*" Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of faith for everyone.

TODAY'S RESPONSES

PSALM: *'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love is everlasting.'*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *'You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe.'*

SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

- (1) Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
- (2) 1 John 2:1-5
- (3) Luke 24:35-48

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Died Recently: Val Waldron
And those who have anniversaries at this time.
May they rest in peace.

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DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS THIS SUNDAY: (The adage '*Fall* (meaning Autumn) *back, Spring forward*' is a helpful way to remember which way clocks go. ie Clocks go back an hour this Sunday at 2am.

THIS SUNDAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: "*Only the mercy of God will quench the thirst of all people*" Pope John Paul II told about 50,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square on 22nd April, 2001, for the first worldwide celebration of Mercy Sunday. "*Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift the Church receives from the risen Christ, and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium*" the Holy Father said in his homily. Christ "*who implores forgiveness for His torturers and opens the gates of Heaven to repentant sinners, is a reason for hope not only for believers, but for non-believers.*" On April 18th 2004, Pope Paul II stated: "*..The Lord is also sending us out to bring to everyone His peace, which is founded on pardon and the forgiveness of sins. This is an extraordinary gift, which He desired to link with the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.*"

Christ's mercy reached out to also heal the cynical, (as in his healing of Thomas the doubter in today's Gospel), along with the physically, emotionally and psychologically afflicted [eg the paralytic (Mark 2:8-11); the fearful disciples (Luke 8:22-25); the ostracised woman (Matthew 15:21-28); ...]. His concern for others was holistic, all encompassing, and his mercy universal.

Regarding forgiveness of sin (from the Catechism of the Church – see Clauses 1854-1864):

'Sins are rightly evaluated according to their gravity. The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture (e.g. 1 John 5:16-17), became part of the tradition of the Church. It is corroborated by human experience.' (CI 1854)

'For sin to be mortal, three conditions must together be met: .. the involvement of grave matter (specified by the Ten Commandments), committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent.' (CI 1857)

'Unintentional ignorance can diminish or even remove the imputability of a grave offence. ...The promptings of feelings and passions can diminish the voluntary and free character of the offence, as can external pressures or pathological disorders. Sin committed through malice, by deliberate choice of evil, is the gravest.' (CI 1860)

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.

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PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS for the year ending March 31st 2024 are available for collection from church foyers.

For anyone wishing to contribute to Planned Giving via direct debit, please see the forms available in the church. Foyers.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS: The Property Services manager for the diocese, Mr Craig Paterson, will be visiting the Roxburgh and Alexandra churches and St Gerard's Primary school on Tuesday. Anyone who has noticed anything needing attention in the churches please let Fr Brendan know, or at the school Mrs Julie Flannery, by this coming Monday evening.

PIANO SEEKING A GOOD HOME: The piano in the Alexandra church foyer is available for anyone to take. Needs tuned.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION : (this Monday 8th April) NB: There will be Mass in the Alexandra church at 9:30am, after the 9am school liturgy): In Luke 1:26-38 the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive and bare a son who will be the Son of God, the Messiah; Mary asks how this can be, accepts God's plan and responds to God's act of mercy towards all humanity. The Son of God will be born of the Holy Spirit and will be the Saviour of all, because humanity had proven incapable (as it still does) of saving itself and recovering its original innocence, so that it may once again be one with God.

VATICAN NEWS (www.vaticannews.va)

-Pope assures victims of Taiwan quake of solidarity and closeness;

-Pope Francis encourages people of all religions to **promote interreligious dialogue, diversity, peace, and care of creation;**

-New Church statistics reveal more Catholics, fewer vocations;

-Pope Francis renews appeal for ceasefire in Gaza;

THANK YOU: On behalf of all parishioners and visitors to our churches over the last few weeks, thank you to all who helped prepare for and contribute to, in many and varied ways, the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. A blessed time. -Fr Brendan.

St GERARD'S SCHOOL MASS *this coming Wednesday, 9am*, in the Alexandra church. This is also the parish Mass of the day. All welcome.

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HUMOUR: The story is told of a priest being stopped by a traffic police officer for speeding. As he was about to receive the ticket the priest said to the officer, '*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy*'. The officer paused for a moment, then handed the priest the speeding ticket, saying '*Go, Father, and sin no more*'. ☺

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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.

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