



Diocese
of Dunedin

Alexandra Catholic Pastoral Area

Omakau (1870) Alexandra (1924) Roxburgh (1950)

www.alexatholic.nz

Parish Priest
Rev Fr Sani Lam
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Presbytery
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Alexandra 9320
Ph: 03 448 8202
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Parish Pastoral Council Chair
Mr Brian McLean

**Finance Committee
& Maintenance Team Chair**
Mr Doug Stanaway

Catholic Social Services
0800 277 669 (toll-free)
Ph: 03 448 5385 (Mon-Wed)

St Gerard's Primary School

Principal
Mrs Julie Flannery

Acting DRS
Mrs Neroli Laidlaw

Board Chair
Mrs Kerrie Fahey

Ph: 03 448 8339
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The Presentation of the Lord

2 February 2020; Year A / Weekdays Year 2

MASS TIMES

Sundays

Omakau 6:00pm Vigil (Sat)
Alexandra 9:00am
Roxburgh 11:00am

Weekdays [this coming week]

Alexandra

Tuesday 5:00pm (side chapel)
Wednesday 9:00am (side chapel)
Thursday 9:00am (side chapel)
Friday 12:00pm (church)
Saturday 9:00am (side chapel)

Roxburgh

Wednesday 5:15pm (church)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Alexandra

Friday 11:00am—Noon
(11:45am Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

Alexandra

Saturday 11:30am—Noon
(or on request)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Quarterly

Alexandra

Friday 12:00pm
(1st Fri of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec)

Roxburgh

Wednesday 5:15pm
(1st Wed of the months of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec)

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OTHER CENTRAL OTAGO PARISH SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Ranfurly 5:00pm (Sun) or
4:00pm during daylight
savings

Cromwell 11:00am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sun)
9:00am (2nd, 4th Sun)

Wanaka 9:00am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sun)
11:00am (2nd, 4th Sun)

Queenstown 6:30pm Vigil (Sat)
9:00am

Arrowtown 11:00am

Garston 11:00am (2nd Sun)

Glenorchy 11:00am (4th Sun)

Sunday Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18;
Luke 2:22-32

Responsorial Psalm

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
And the glory of your people, Israel.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.



Died Recently

Gordon George
Cossens
Ted Jones

Anniversaries

Len O'Donnell

Requiescant
in Pace

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING—Thursday 13 Feb, 7pm in the side chapel.

THE COMMUNITY PANTRY—Presently we are urgently short of tinned spaghetti, baked beans and pasta. Also needed: tinned fish, rice risotto, 2-minute noodles, long-life milk, 100's tea bags, peanut butter, veggie/marmite approx. 250g size. Thank you for your continued support.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS—On sale now for \$12

OASIS OPPORTUNITY SHOP—The Oasis shop is open Tues to Fri from 11am-4pm.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? Send the Parish an email
(alexatholic@xtra.co.nz) and request to go on the mailing list.

WEEKLY HOLY HOUR—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament occurs in the Alexandra church of St John the Baptist each Friday, 11am-Noon (concluding with Benediction at 11:45am). Come along and spend some quiet time in prayer before the Lord.

SICK PARISHIONERS—If you're aware of any family or parishioners who are in hospital, a rest-home or homebound due to illness, please contact Fr Sani so that they can receive the Sacraments and pastoral care. Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM FR VAUGHAN—I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all very much for your generosity to me personally in taking up a collection as a farewell gift from each of the Parishes in the Pastoral Area. It will be no surprise to many of you to know that I will add it to my kiwisaver account :-). I also wish to thank those who have written lovely letters and cards, particularly the children of the parish who have received the Sacraments over my 2-years in the Pastoral Area, as well as our great Altar Servers.

I wish you all the very best for the future, whatever it may hold for you—we never just know what is next, which is probably a good thing otherwise we might start arguing with God!

Blessings to you all,
Fr Vaughan.

COLLECTIONS & INCOME Dec 2019

Alexandra / Omakau	
Parish	\$ 4,747
Sales	\$ 407
Alexo/Function	\$ 129
Donations	\$ 330
Annual profit / (loss) to date:	\$ 18,832
Roxburgh	
Parish	\$ 707
Donations	\$ 65
Sales	\$ 42
Roxo	\$ 83
Advent Charities	\$ 85
Annual profit / (loss) to date:	\$ 3,194
Pastoral Area	
Presbytery	\$ 2,740
Stole Fees	\$ 43
Roxb Christmas	\$ 276
Alex Christmas	\$ 1,120

Pope on New Year's Day: 'Let's Stand & Acclaim the Lady, the Holy Mother of God'

1 January 2020—ZENIT

All together now, three times, let us stand and acclaim the Lady, Mary, the Mother of God...

Pope Francis gave these instructions this New Year's Day in St. Peter's Basilica this morning, January 1, 2020, marking the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which also marks the World Day of Peace.

Why We Begin Year Celebrating Our Lady

The Holy Father urged the faithful in the Basilica to celebrate Our Lady during his homily, where he reflected on Mary, the Woman, and how significant it is that God sent His Son to be born of woman.

"From her, a woman," he said, "salvation came forth and thus there is no salvation without a woman. In her," he reminded, "God was united to us, and if we want to unite ourselves to him, we must take the same path: through Mary, woman and mother. That is why we begin the year by celebrating Our Lady, the woman who wove the humanity of God. If we want to weave humanity into this our time, we need to start again from the woman."

Francis also reflected on the significance of women, overall, in numerous ways, but especially as mediators of peace. Moreover, the Argentinian Pontiff did not mince words as he said that violence toward women is equivalent to profaning God.

Let Us Ask Ourselves, This New Year

Women, the Holy Father said, typically take life to heart. "Women show us that the meaning of life is not found in making things but in taking things to heart. Only those who see with the heart see things properly, because they know how to "look into" each person: to see a brother apart from his mistakes, a sister apart from her failings, hope amid difficulty. They see God in all persons and things."

"As we begin this new year," the Pope encouraged, "let us ask ourselves: Do I know how to see with the heart? Do I know how to look at people with the heart? Do I take to heart the people with whom I live? Or do I tear them down by gossip? And above all, do I put the Lord at the centre of my heart, or other values, other interests..."

The Church Finds in Our Lady Her Distinctive Traits

The Church, Francis reminded, is woman and mother, and in Our Lady, he continued, "She finds her distinctive traits."

"She sees Mary immaculate, and feels called to say no to sin and to worldliness. She sees Mary fruitful, and feels called to proclaim the Gospel and to give birth to it in people's lives. She sees Mary a mother, and she feels called to receive every man and woman as a son or daughter."

Church Discovers Herself in Drawing Close to Mary

"In drawing close to Mary," the Pope elaborated, "the Church discovers herself, She finds her center and her unity."

"The enemy of our human nature," the devil, the Jesuit Pope warned, "seeks instead to divide, highlight differences, ideologies, partisan thinking and parties. But we do not understand the Church if we regard her by starting with structures, programs and trends, ideologies and functions. We may grasp something, but not the heart of the Church. Because the Church has a mother's heart."

The Holy Father encouraged all believers, as her sons and daughters, "invoke today the Mother of God, who gathers us together as a people of believers."

Below is the Vatican-provided text of Pope Francis' homily:

"But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son,

born of woman" (Gal 4:4). Born of woman: Jesus came in this way. He did not appear in the world as an adult but, as the Gospel tells us, he was "conceived in the womb" (Lk 2:21). It was there that he made our humanity his own: day after day, month after month. In the womb of a woman, God and mankind are united, never to be separated again. Even now, in heaven, Jesus lives in the flesh that he took in his mother's womb. In God, there is our



human flesh!

On the first day of the year, we celebrate this nuptial union between God and mankind, inaugurated in the womb of a woman. In God, there will forever be our humanity and Mary will forever be the Mother of God. She is both woman and mother: this is what is essential. From her, a woman, salvation came forth and thus there is no salvation without a woman. In her, God was united to us, and if we want to unite ourselves to him, we must take the same path: through Mary, woman and mother. That is why we begin the year by celebrating Our Lady, the woman who wove the humanity of God. If we want to weave humanity into this our time, we need to start again from the woman.

Born of woman. The rebirth of humanity began from a woman. Women are sources of life. Yet they are continually insulted, beaten, raped, forced to prostitute themselves and to suppress the life they bear in the womb. Every form of violence inflicted upon a woman is a blasphemy against God, who was born of a woman. Humanity's salvation came forth from the body of a woman: we can understand our degree of humanity by how we treat a woman's body. How often are women's bodies sacrificed on the profane altars of advertising, of profiteering, of pornography, exploited like a canvas to be used. Yet women's bodies must be freed from consumerism; they must be respected and honoured. Theirs is the most noble flesh in the world, for it conceived and brought to light the love that has saved us! In our day, too, motherhood is demeaned, because the only growth that interests us is economic growth. There are mothers who risk difficult journeys desperately seeking to give a better future to the fruit of their womb, yet are deemed redundant by people with full stomachs but hearts empty of love.

Born of woman. The Bible tells us that woman come onto the scene at the height of creation, as a summation of the entire created world. For she holds within herself the very purpose of creation: the generation and safekeeping of life, communion with all things, care for all things. So it is with the Mother of God in today's Gospel. The text tells us, "But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (v. 19). She kept all these things: joy at the birth of Jesus and sadness for the lack of hospitality shown in Bethlehem; the love of Joseph and the amazement of the shepherds; the promise and the uncertainty of the future. She took everything to heart, and in her heart, she put everything in its right place, even hardships and troubles. In her heart, she lovingly set all things in order and entrusted everything to God.

In the Gospel, Mary does this a second time: at the end of the hidden life of Jesus, we are told that "his mother kept all these things in her heart" (v. 51). This repetition makes us realize that "keeping in her heart" was not something nice that Our Lady did from time to time, but something habitual. Women typically take life to heart. Women show us that the meaning of life is not found in making things but in taking things to heart. Only those who see with the heart see things properly, because they know how to "look into" each person: to see a brother apart from his mistakes, a sister apart from her failings, hope amid difficulty. They see God in all persons and things.

As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves: Do I know how to see with the heart? Do I know how to look at people with the heart? Do I take to heart the people with whom I live? Or do I tear them down by gossip? And above all, do I put the Lord at the centre of my heart, or other values, other interests, like advancement, riches, power? Only if we take life to heart will we know how to take care and overcome the indifference all around. So let us ask for the grace to live this year with the desire to take others to heart and to care for them. And if we want a better world, a world that will be a peaceful home and not a war field, may we take to heart the dignity of each woman. From a woman was born the Prince of peace. Women are givers and mediators of peace and should be fully included in decision-making processes. Because when women can share their gifts, the world finds itself more united, more peaceful. Hence, every step forward for women is a step forward for humanity as a whole.

Born of woman. Jesus, newly born, was mirrored in the eyes of the woman, in the face of his mother. From her, he received his first caresses; with her, he exchanged the first smiles. With her began the revolution of tenderness. The Church, looking at the Baby Jesus, is called to continue that revolution. For she too, like Mary, is both woman and mother. The Church is woman and mother, and in Our Lady, she finds her distinctive traits. She sees Mary immaculate, and feels called to say no to sin and to worldliness. She sees Mary fruitful, and feels called to proclaim the Gospel and to give birth to it in people's lives. She sees Mary a mother, and she feels called to receive every man and woman as a son or daughter.

In drawing close to Mary, the Church discovers herself, she finds her centre and her unity. The enemy of our human nature, the devil, seeks instead to divide, to highlight differences, ideologies, partisan thinking and parties. But we do not understand the Church if we regard her by starting with structures, programmes and trends, ideologies and functions. We may grasp something, but not the heart of the Church. Because the Church has a mother's heart. And we, as her sons and daughters, invoke today the Mother of God, who gathers us together as a people of believers. O Mother, give birth to hope within us and bring us unity. Woman of salvation, to you we entrust this year. Keep it in your heart. We acclaim you, the Holy Mother of God. All together now, for three times, let us stand and acclaim the Lady, the Holy Mother of God. [with the assembly] Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God!

NEXT WEEK

9 February Readings: Isaiah 58:7-10; I Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

9 February Rosters

Greeters: Delpont family(Alex); (Roxb).

Projector: Volunteer (Omak); J Fonseca (Alex); (Roxb).

Altar Servers: Isabella Breen, Sophie Tait, David Fonseca

Intro/POF: Brian McLean (Alex).

Readers: L Van Boxtel (Omak); Amy Delpont (Alex); (Roxb).

Offertory: Delpont family (Alex); (Roxb).

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Joan (Omak); M Bennie, J Parbhu, L Fonseca (Alex); (Roxb).

Sacristan: L Fonseca / J Hogue (Alex).

Cleaning: M Matheson (Omak); (Alex); (Roxb).