

## 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.

Newsletter for  
**SUNDAY 07 APRIL 2024**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER, YEAR B

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### SCRIPTURE READINGS TODAY

(1) *Acts 3:13-15,17-19.* Saint Peter gives witness to the people, telling them that they have killed the prince of life. But through repentance they can have their sins forgiven and be reconciled to God.

(2) *1 John 2:1-5.* Keeping God's commandments is the only way to be sure we know God.

(3) *Luke 24:35-48.* Jesus appears to his disciples. They think they have seen a ghost. He eats and shows his wounds. He tells them how his resurrection is the fulfilment of the Prophets and Psalms.

### TODAY'S RESPONSES

**PSALM:** "Lord, let your face shine on us."

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** 'Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.'

### SCRIPTURE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

(1) *Acts 4:8-12.*

(2) *1 John 3:1-2.*

(3) *John 10:11-18.*

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We pray for those who have died Recently and for those who have **anniversaries** at this time: Dotisimo Sumicad; Marie Dyson & Catarina Derks  
May they rest in peace.

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**RENTAL HOME SOUGHT:** A St Gerard's family with 4 children, from India last year, have to be out of their current rental at the end of April so are desperately looking for a new, preferably 3 bedroom, house. The parents are both working. Please contact St Gerard's office, or Fr Brendan, if you are able to help.



## ALEXANDRA PARISH CENTENNIAL

**Next weekend, 20-21st April.**

### Weekend Structure and Timetable

(1) Saturday evening at the District Club:

6pm Social Hour (NB: Bar is cash only), followed by 7pm Dinner, for all who have registered.

(2) 9am Sunday morning Mass at the Alexandra parish church, followed by a morning tea in the church entrance area.

NB: (i) Please bring a plate.



(ii) At the end of the Mass please remain in your pews for a short time before being asked to turn around so that a photo may be taken from the Choir Loft.



(3) The Centenary memorial booklet will be on sale for \$20 at the Saturday night dinner and after Mass on Sunday. (NB: Cash sale only please.)

**See details on parish website: [www.alexatholic.nz](http://www.alexatholic.nz)**

**Preparatory Working Bee:** There will be a working-bee tidy-up around the church grounds and inside the church this coming Thursday, 1-3pm, for any and all who could help please. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to collect up fallen leaf matter.

**NB: VIGIL MASS AT OMAKAU SATURDAY P.M.:** This has been rescheduled to the earlier time of 5pm. However, there will still be a brief Communion Service (as for a house visit) at 6pm for any others not aware of the change of time.

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*God's blessing and peace on our celebrations as we gather to express thanks for and to honour all who have contributed to the faith, fellowship, and life of our parish and the wider community over the last 100 years here in Central Otago.*

**CENTENARY CHOIR PRACTICE:** After 9am Mass at Alexandra this Sunday in preparation for the Centenary Mass next Sunday. All willing and able to contribute in this way would be very welcome and much appreciated.

**VATICAN DECLARATION ON THE THEME OF HUMAN**

**DIGNITY:** ‘The Vatican’s Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has recently published a new Declaration on the theme of human dignity, addressing a range of contemporary moral and social issues.

The document, Declaration Dignitas Infinita, on Human Dignity, addresses such issues as poverty, war, the travail of migrants, human trafficking, sexual abuse, violence against women, abortion, surrogacy, euthanasia/assisted suicide, the marginalising of people with disabilities, gender theory, sex change and digital violence. A copy can be downloaded from <https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Dignitas-Infinita-Inglese-.pdf>.

Also a *Vatican News* article can be found at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2024-04/human-dignity-ddf-document-migration-gender-surrogacy-war-theolo.html>

(From David McLoughlin, *Communications Adviser for the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. 08.4.24*)

**THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION** (last Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April):

‘Thus the Son of God enters this lowly world. ... He was born in a new condition, for, invisible in his own nature, he became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, he began to exist at a moment in time. Lord of the universe, he hid his infinite glory and took the nature of a servant. Incapable of suffering as God, he did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, he chose to be subject to the laws of death.

He who is true God is also true man. ... One nature is resplendent with miracles, the other falls victim to injuries. As the Word does not lose equality with the Father’s glory, so the flesh does not leave behind the nature of our race.

One and the same person – this must be said over and over again – is truly the Son of God and truly the son of man. He is God in virtue of the fact that *in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. He is man in virtue of the fact that *the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*’ (From a letter of St Leo the Great, Pope, 440-461)

**CHANGE TO SEMINARY SPECIAL COLLECTION**

**METHOD:** ‘Next Sunday, 21st of April, is Good Shepherd Sunday. Traditionally the annual special collection for the provision of the seminary and its students training for priesthood is collected on this Sunday. In addition, parishes contribute the entire collection for that day plus the equivalent of one week’s automatic payments for the month. This can be easily forgotten. As such, we will approach the collection differently this year. i.e. On the 28th of May the diocese will deduct the equivalent of 1/52 of your parishes 2023 planned giving income for the seminary

appeal. Closer to the date you will be sent an email explaining how much money is to be deducted from your account.

This change should make things a bit easier. It also ensures that the diocese receives some income to help fund the training of our seminarians. As it is, our seminary costs far exceed what we receive each year in the collection.’ (From Fr Gerard Aynsley, *Vicar General and Dunedin Diocesan Finance Administrator*)

**PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS** for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 are available for collection from church foyers. For anyone wishing to contribute to Planned Giving via direct debit, please see the forms available near church foyers notice boards.

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**HUMOUR:** A college class was told to write a short story in as few words as possible, containing the following three components – *Religion-Sexuality-Mystery*. There was only one A+ paper in the whole class, the story being, ‘*Good God; I’m pregnant; I wonder how that happened?*’ 😊

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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

