



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

Communion / Participation / Mission



7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

22nd & 23rd Feb 2025

READINGS AT MASS

FIRST READING • (1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23). David did not take advantage when he had his enemy Saul at his mercy. It makes us ask how we treat those who are dependent on our mercy.

SECOND READING • (1 Corinthians 15:45-49). Our destiny is not to fall back into the earth, but to move forward to become like the risen Christ, glorious in heaven.

GOSPEL • (Luke 6:27-38). ‘Treat each other as you want them to treat you,’ Jesus uses this golden rule but he adds an important proviso. Do not wait to repay a good deed done to you, we must go out and do the good first.

Jesus Invites Us to Love Our Enemies

This is a call to a nonviolent way of life, one that must be intentional, as the Lord has taught us (Lk 6:27-38). It is one of the most radical and difficult invitations for anyone, including long-practicing Christians. Indeed, it is impossible without God's grace, for only God can love in this way. Because to love our enemies means loving those who have made our lives more difficult, those who have chosen their own advantage over ours, and those who oppose our way of life. As challenging as this may be, the Lord has confidence in us, saying: “Take courage, I have conquered the world” (Jn 16:33). As we contemplate Christ on the Cross, we recall His last words: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34). And just as God does not treat us according to our sins or repay us according to our faults (Ps 103:10), may we also strive to be compassionate as our Father is compassionate (Lk 6:36).

The Poem of Paradox by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta serves as a reminder that loving our enemies is possible:

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered—love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives—do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies—succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow—do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable—be honest and frank anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you help them—help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and you'll get kicked in the teeth—give the world the best you have anyway.

In the end, it is between you and God anyway!

If we are constantly upset and impatient with others, we will become drained and weary. But if we regard the faults and limitations of others with tenderness and meekness—without an air of superiority—we can help them rather than wasting our energy on useless complaints. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux reminds us: “Perfect charity consists in putting up with others’ mistakes and not being scandalized by their faults” (Gaudete et Exsultate, No. 70). Lastly, Christ tells us: “Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Mt 11:29).

Fr. Tien Cao

Parish Contacts

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www.mackenziecatholic.nz

Parish Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/mackenziecatholicparish>

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PARISH MASS TIMES

FAIRLIE - ST. PATRICK'S

Sunday 9:30 am

Tue – Fri

Adoration: 8:00 – 9:00 am

Mass: 9:15 am

Reconciliation every day during adoration

TWIZEL – All Saints'

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

TEKAPO - Good Shepherd Church

Last Sunday of the Month

Mass 23rd Feb at 6:00 pm

Parish Council

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PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND NOTICES

1. Jubilee Year Of Hope: Pilgrimages are an important element of the Jubilee Year. The designated pilgrimage sites for our diocese are:

St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, Christchurch.

St Patrick’s Church, Akaroa

The St Mary MacKillop Chapel, Catholic Parish of Opihi, Temuka.

Sanctuary of Fourviere & Shrine of Mary, Mother of Light, Leithfield.

For more information on these sites visit <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/jubilee-year-pilgrimage-sites-announced>

2. Faith Formation – Want to grow in your relationship with God? For you and family throughout the year. **FORMED** is an online Catholic media platform filled with over 4,000 programs about the bible, faith and parenting, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. It is an amazing resource to enrich, deepen, and inspire your faith. This material is free for all parishioners. You can gain access to all of FORMED’s content by following these simple steps:

• (1) Go to <https://signup.formed.org/> (2) • Enter your parish name: **Mackenzie Parish** (3) • Enter your name:... and your email address:

3. Ash Wednesday – 5th March: As we begin the season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Ashes will be distributed during Mass as a sign of repentance and renewal.

4. Lent Women’s Programme – Fiat 40: Fiat 40 invites women who are seeking to grow closer to Christ by embracing the virtues of Mary - faith, humility and devotion. Inspired by Mary’s fiat - her whole hearted “YES” to God, this programme combines daily prayer and intentional lifestyle sacrifices to create space for God’s grace and deeper spiritual growth. With the support of a small group, women are invited to simplify their lives, strengthen their faith, and model Mary’s trust and obedience in their walk with Christ. Like the men’s Exodus programme there are three core elements; a routine of prayer, disciplines such as no meat on Wednesday and Friday and support with others taking part in the programme.

For more information visit the diocesan website or contact Jacinta Nicholls email jacinta@sjr.nz or phone 022 677 4249

5. Lent Men’s Program – Exodus 40: Brothers, do you have a hole in your heart you cannot satisfy? Is there a habit you want to be rid of? Are you isolated? Are you frequently distracted? Do you want more time in your life for reflection? Do you feel not present enough for your loved ones? Are you approaching this Lent either with no plan or unsure of what to “give up”? Well, we have something that will transform your life and give your lent this year structure like nothing you’ve done before. Join us this lent on Exodus 40 for men! These structured challenges are a path to gaining true Christian freedom from the things shackling us based on three pillars; prayer, brotherhood and a set of physical disciplines. These challenges are designed to make your Lent journey with our Lord more fruitful and deliberate. We know this will be a blessing to you like no other. What are you waiting for?

Join us. Register your interest online on the diocesan website or contact Mike Stopforthmstopforth@cdoc.nz 3669869. A “tips and tricks” night for those undertaking Exodus will be held on Thursday 27th February, 7.30pm, Assisi Lounge, St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral to hear from those who have done Exodus in previous years.

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
22 nd Feb	Sue Atkinson	Bronwen Dauvin	Kathleen Carpenter
1 st Mar	Gerry Dauvin	Lenise Kearns	Bronwen Dauvin

Church set up for Feb: Lenise Kearns

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex’Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
23 rd Feb	Lisa Holden	Lisa Holden	Cath Hanrahan	Kevin O’Neil	Tony Hill
2 nd Mar	Amanda O’Brien	Amanda O’Brien	Rosemary Moran	Abella Family	Christine O’Connell

Cleaners: 14 Feb/21 Feb Jo O’Neill Mary Harris