



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

Communion / Participation / Mission



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR C

5th & 6th April 2025

READINGS AT MASS

Isaiah 43:16-21. I am doing a new thing and I will give a drink to my people.
Philippians 3:8-14. Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.
John 8:1-11. Jesus Defines True Justice: Saving a Woman Who Was Condemned to Death.



*Next Week is 13th April
Palm Sunday*

Jesus Defines True Justice:

Saving a Woman Who Was Condemned to Death

Today's Gospel message is one of redemption. Jesus is present at the right time and in the right place to rescue a woman who had been condemned to death for the sin of adultery. We believe that anyone else, no matter their sin, who is brought to Jesus with a repentant heart can also be forgiven in the same way. Jesus looks first at the person, not the sin, teaching us that before we judge anyone, we must learn to see them as beloved children of God, not with the merciless gaze of the scribes and Pharisees, who looked first at the sin and were blinded to the person.

We know that only God can forgive sins, and today, Jesus reveals that He is God. Jesus shows us that to truly forgive others, we must be willing to make a sacrifice, even to the point of taking the blame upon ourselves. This is a voluntary act of selfless love, extended even to those who may or may not seem to deserve it.

Let us pause and reflect on the justice systems in our world: are they more inclined to protect or to condemn? As Christians, can we do anything about it? When do people say to us, "Thank God you are here"?

Let us not be trapped in the past sins and guilt, our own or others,' but instead believe in the future that Christ's redemption makes possible. St. Paul teaches us: "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, the prize of God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Ultimately, Jesus has come to reveal true justice to our world. To know Jesus is to know what is right, righteous, and virtuous. St. Paul declared, "I believe nothing can outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." As Psalm 126 proclaims: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." May we too be people of joy and justice, radiating and spreading the fragrance of Christ's mercy and inner peace wherever we go.

God writes straight with crooked lines. We are not to live in the guilt of past sins, nor should we expect perfection of ourselves or of others, a perfection that belongs to God alone. Instead, we are to see ourselves and others as God sees us: people on a journey.

Fr. Tien Cao

Parish Contacts

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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

Easter Sunday 20th April

& Last Sunday of the Month

Mass 27th April at **6:00 pm**

Parish Council

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PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND NOTICES

1. Holy Week in Fairlie: In addition to our usual ministries, we are seeking extra assistance during our Masses on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.

- For Palm Sunday, we need two extra readers to assist with the Gospel reading of the Passion.
- For Maundy Thursday, we are looking for a reader, one or two people to present the gifts at the Offertory, and a Eucharistic Minister.

We are also inviting volunteers to participate in the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday. If we can find 12 participants, that would be fantastic! If you know you will be attending Mass next Sunday and/or on Maundy Thursday and are able to assist with any of these ministries, please let Tony know while enjoying your after-Mass cuppa. Thank you for your generous support.

2. Thank You & Parish Working Bee: We would like to thank many of you for helping cut the trees behind St. Patrick's Church and cleaning them up during the week and last Saturday. This work is necessary because St. Joseph's School will soon build a fence for the children's safety. Again, a parish working bee has been scheduled for the second Saturday, 12th April, 9.00 - 11.00 am. We need everyone's help to cut, clear, and remove the tree branches. Your support is greatly appreciated!

3. Alpha: Alpha has started for 11 weeks (April – June 2025). You will have the chance to catch up with friends and make new ones. Bring along family members who don't attend Mass anymore or maybe workmates and friends who have shown an interest in your faith. Any questions? Please phone Fr. Tien Cao. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. We start with a meal, followed by a short video and discussion in small groups. It's relaxed and informal, and everyone is welcome. No charge, no pressure!

- **In Twizel:** Started on Tuesday 1st April, from 5:00pm – 6.30 pm at Bronwen and Gerry Dauvin's House
- **In Fairlie:** Started on Monday 31st March from 6.00 – 7.30 pm at the presbytery.

4. Update Plan Giving: Thank you for your generosity in supporting our parish mission. As we approach the end of the financial year, we encourage you to review and update your Planned Giving to ensure your contributions are up to date. If you are able, *please consider giving a little more* to help us continue our ministry and outreach, as we have been running at a deficit. We also encourage you to set up an online automatic payment for convenience and consistency. Your generosity truly makes a difference!

5. Stations of the Cross During Lent:

In Fairlie: St. Patrick's Church: 6.00 pm – Every Friday. *In Twizel:* All Saints' Church: 6.00 pm – Every Wednesday. ON-DEMAND - We understand that not everyone can attend in person. You can now experience the Stations on-demand at <https://www.fdm.org.nz/stations-of-the-cross> Visit the website anytime to reflect and pray in a way that best fits your schedule. *In Twizel:* (1) Rosalie Ardagh is available to help you download *the Hallow App* so you can join the Lenten Daily Reflection. (2) Let's gather before Mass on Saturdays from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM to mix, mingle, and strengthen our relationships by sharing our Lenten experiences.

6. Support of Lent Appeal is an 'act of generosity': The New Zealand Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa NZ asks Caritas to run a six-week fundraising campaign on their behalf called the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The money raised during this time is essential to the mission of Caritas. It provides much of the funding necessary for them to continue their life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific and beyond. This year's appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany & UK have also cut their overseas budgets. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw.

LENTEN ENVELOPES are available to be picked up in the foyer of both Churches.

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
5 th April	Gerry Dauvin	Bronwen Dauvin	Elizabeth Higgins
12 th April	Mary Murdoch	Lenise Kearns	Bronwen Dauvin

Church set up for April 2025: Elizabeth Higgins

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
6 th April	Tony Hill	Tony Hill	Leonie Guiney	Kevin O'Neil	Amanda O'Brien
13 th April	Lisa Holden	Lisa Holden	Cath Hanrahan	Neville Smith	Christine O'Connell

Cleaners: 28 Mar / 4 Apr Cindy Sheehan / Cath Hanrahan