



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

Communion / Participation / Mission



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C

17th & 18th May 2025

READINGS AT MASS

- *Acts 14:21-27.* They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.
- *Apocalypse 21: 1-5.* He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.
- *John 13:31-35.* I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Jesus Said, 'Love One Another Just As I Have Loved You'

In the context of the Last Supper, Jesus said, "I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you, you also must love one another... everyone will know that you are my disciples." The love of Jesus is unique, and the newness of his commandment is that no prophet or king had ever made their own way of loving the absolute standard for others. The newness of Jesus's commandment is rooted in the origin of God who became incarnate. Moses gave the Law but did not say, "love as I have loved you." David, though a man after God's heart, did not make his own way of loving the standard for Israel. The prophets called people back to God's love, but they did not personally become the pattern of love. Jesus alone, as the Son of God, speaks from divine authority and example, giving a new law of love rooted in His own self-giving.

In saying, "Love one another just as I have loved you," Jesus wants us to be conformed to him. The love of Christ is unique in the sense that it is the total giving up of himself on the cross. Jesus invites us to try to love as he loves infinitely. He, who is God—deserving of our honor and worship—has taken on our lowly humanity and died on our behalf so that our humanity is redeemed, restored, and divinized. In this way, Christ invites us to love one another not only by giving what we possess or even by giving ourselves, but by allowing him to become the very source of our love for one another. This means not only loving and dying to oneself for the sake of others, but crucifying our self-will and self-importance in order to make the lives of others better. Jesus wants to love in us and with us in our love for one another.

Finally, love is the essence of Christian life. Jesus invites every one of us to live in love as a form of sharing the Good News. Here, love is the mark of discipleship: "By this love... everyone will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:35). No prophet or patriarch before had made love among the community itself the identifying mark of belonging to God. In the Old Covenant, circumcision, the Law, or ethnic identity were the signs; Jesus replaces these with love modeled on himself.

Fr. Tien Cao

Baptism & First Holy Communion: Baptism purifies us from sins, and initiates a lifelong friendship with Jesus, a journey that opens the heart to God's love and brings us into the family of the Church. In this spirit, I warmly invite you to consider allowing your child or grandchild to participate in a baptism preparation program that I will be leading. This will include simple, engaging lessons on topics such as: 1) Who is God? 2) Why do we celebrate Christmas and Easter? 3) What is the Bible? 4) What is a Sacrament? 5) What is the Church? Following the baptism preparation in term 3, we will also offer a program later in the year for the children to prepare for their First Holy Communion in term 4, deepening their encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Parish Contacts

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Parish Website:

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 25th May at 6:00 pm

Parish Council

Tony Hill

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Parish Finance

Leonie Guiney

027 2933 228

Twizel Church Charitable Trust

Gerry Dauvin - 027 482 8284

St. Joseph's School

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DIOCESAN AND PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

1. SLT Update: It's time to update you all on the progress of the Parish SLT. We have been meeting every second week from 6:30 to 8:00 am. The team has decided to change our name from Senior Leadership Team to Servant Leadership Team, reflecting the humble and Christ-like style of leadership we wish to embody. Over the past weeks, we have prayerfully discerned and gathered some key words that express the emerging vision of our parish. These words will help shape a vision statement that we hope to share with the whole parish in the coming weeks. We invite you to reflect on these vision key words, and if you wish, feel free to express them in your own words and send them to us. You are also warmly welcome to join one of our meetings to share your thoughts and be part of the journey. Vision Key Words *Mackenzie Catholic Parish is about: Love, Encountering Jesus, Intentional Discipleship, Witness, Welcome, Sanctuary, Learning, Renewal, Thriving Christian Community, Salvation, Holy Spirit, Engagement, Touching Hearts, Response, Inquisitiveness, Home, Anchor, Attraction, etc.*

2. Praying for Vocations and Priests on Thursdays: As in the past, the diocesan family dedicates Thursdays to pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood. You might like to come to Mass on Thursdays, if possible, but all are invited to pray for this intention.

3. Food For Faith: Fr. John O'Connor invites you to write telling of one experience of God in up to 400 words for the second edition of FIFTH GOSPEL LIVING. Send your contribution to john@fff.org.nz. This second collection will be published later this year.

4. Parish Alpha Update: Our parish has been blessed with two Alpha groups—one in Fairlie and one in Twizel. In Fairlie, a group of 10 young people has been gathering each week to share a meal, watch a video exploring one of the mysteries of Christ, and engage in meaningful discussion afterward. They have now reached the sixth week of the program. Similarly, in Twizel, a group of five participants is also journeying through the sixth week of Alpha.

This is a sign of the power of the Risen Lord, who is gathering us together through His teaching and love. Let us continue to pray for all those serving in Alpha and for those taking part in it, that they may grow in faith and encounter Christ more deeply.

5. Tax Receipts Available: The parish is deeply grateful for your generosity. Your financial giving, time, and talents are beautiful expressions of your faith, commitment, and love for God and our faith community. Your support enables us to continue the mission of sanctifying souls and building up the Body of Christ in our parish. Please remember to collect your tax receipt, and may you receive God's abundant blessings along with our prayers for you and your family.

6. May is the Month of Mary: During the month of May, let us remember to pray the Rosary, the compendium of the Gospel. In praying the Rosary, we become united with Mary, the Mother of our faith, and we enter into communion with those for whom we pray. The Rosary is a powerful prayer that leads us to contemplate the mysteries of Christ through the heart of his Mother. We encourage everyone to pray the Rosary daily during this special month, and to offer your intentions for our parish community, for peace in the world, and for those in need. Jesus teaches us: "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you" (Mt 7:7). Let us approach our Mother with trust, knowing she intercedes for us before her Son.

7. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 1–8 June 2025 | Theme: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26) This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is prepared by the Monastic Community of Bose, marking the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. It's an opportunity for Christians to pray and work together for the unity Christ desires for His Church. In Aotearoa, we are invited to join in worship and shared activities with other local churches during this week. Suggestions include an ecumenical service, joint social events, community projects, or a daily prayer relay among churches. Resources and worship materials are available from the World Council of Churches: www.oikoumene.org/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
17 th May	Mary Murdoch	Bronwen Dauvin	Sandy Murray
24 th May	Gerry Dauvin	Lenise Kearns	Kathleen Carpenter

Church set up for May 2025: Sandy Murray

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
18 th May	Amanda O'Brien	Amanda O'Brien	Mercedes Abella	Kevin O'Neil	Christine O'Connell
25 th May	Lisa Holden	Lisa Holden	Mary Calder	Neville Smith	Cindy Sheehan

Cleaners: 16 May Tessa Gallagher & Kelly Eason / 23 May - Louise Anderson