



# MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel

*Communion / Participation / Mission*



## THE ASCENSION SUNDAY - YEAR C

*31<sup>st</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025*

### READINGS AT MASS

- *Acts 1:1-11*. Jesus has been taken into heaven.
- *Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23*. Christ has entered heaven.
- *Lk 24:46-53*. While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

### The Ascension: Christ Is Waiting For Us In Heaven

It is said, "When we do not know how to move forward or backward, then we should go upward." Going upward is not merely a direction; it is a spiritual orientation of lifting our hearts toward the immortality of heaven, namely, toward God. In this life, we often face uncertainty and suffering. The answer is not to retreat or fall into despair, but to fix our eyes above. As Christians, our gaze is drawn heavenward because Christ, our Head, has gone before us in glory. The Solemnity of the Ascension teaches us to reorient our lives not downward, into the distractions and mortality of the world, but upward, toward divine life.

The Gospel of Luke records a glorious event: "*Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven*" (Lk 24:50-53). Jesus was lifted from the earth in the sight of his disciples, in a posture of blessing. This gesture is not just symbolic; it reveals his abiding desire to protect and guide his Church. With arms open in benediction, Jesus shows that even as he departs in bodily form, he does not abandon us. The disciples' response is telling: "*They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.*" Their joy did not come from seeing Jesus leave, but from the promise that he is now enthroned in glory, preparing a place for them, and for us.

The Church captures this mystery beautifully in the Collect of today's Mass: "*Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.*" This prayer explains the reason for our joy: through the Ascension, Christ has brought our humanity into heaven. In Jesus, true God and true man, our human nature, your nature and mine, has entered into eternal communion with the Father. This is why the Ascension is not only historical, but also transcendental. It happened in time and was witnessed by the disciples. But its significance reaches beyond time. Our human destiny is no longer confined to earth or to death. In Christ, humanity has already begun to share in the divine glory. And through Baptism, we become part of this mystery. We are made members of the Mystical Body of Christ, and so where the Head has gone, the Body must follow. This gives meaning to our Christian journey: when we have completed our earthly path, we shall be united with Christ in glory. Heaven is not a vague dream; it is our true home, and Christ is there, waiting for us.

Finally, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us, as he himself promised: "*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also*" (Jn 14:3). Jesus does not want us to remain in mortality, but to live in immortality with him. Let us respond to this great mystery with faith, hope, and joy.

*Fr. Tien Cao*

### Parish Contacts

7 Gall Street, Fairlie 7925

### Parish Website:

[www.mackenziecatholic.nz](http://www.mackenziecatholic.nz)

### Parish Facebook:

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

### Parish Priest:

Fr. Tien Cao

M: 021 181 4721

Email:

[mackenziecatholic@gmail.com](mailto:mackenziecatholic@gmail.com)

### PARISH MASS TIMES

#### FAIRLIE - ST. PATRICK'S

Sunday 9:30 am

Tue – Fri (in house chapel)

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 29<sup>th</sup> June at 6:00 pm

### Parish Council

Tony Hill

027 331 7861

### Parish Finance

Leonie Guiney

027 2933 228

### Twizel Church Charitable Trust

Gerry Dauvin - 027 482 8284

### St. Joseph's School

Kelly and Bridget

M. 027 685 8659

E. [principal@stjofairlie.school.nz](mailto:principal@stjofairlie.school.nz)

W.

<https://www.stjofairlie.school.nz/>

## DIOCESAN AND PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

**1. Prayer of the Faithful at Pentecost:** If you speak a language other than English, please let Fr. Tien know so that you can help offer a prayer in your language at our Pentecost celebration. This glorifies God, who in His unlimited power is praised through the beauty of many tongues. It also reflects the unity we share in our diverse faith community. *May the Holy Spirit inspire you to say YES!* 😊

**2. Thank You – Sharon Blanchard:** We are grateful to Sharon Blanchard for her many years of dedicated service to the parish as a member of the Parish Council. In this role, she has helped to bridge our Twizel community with the wider parish. As Sharon and her family now prepare to move to Christchurch, we pray that the love of Christ and the many good experiences she has shared with the people of Twizel will continue to accompany them on their journey.

**3. Thank You** We are also deeply grateful to **Brian and Kathleen Carpenter** for their many years of faithful service in the Twizel community. Your commitment to the faith and your dedication have been a great support to priests, parishioners, and visitors who have come to All Saints for Mass and other services. Only God can fully reward you, but we want you to know that your Christian witness has been exemplary and a source of inspiration for many of us. We are especially thankful for the way you have invited and encouraged your family members to take part in various parish ministries. A short video has been made to honour and remember your service: Watch here: <https://mackenziecatholic.nz/mass-times/> This video will remain on our parish website and YouTube channel as a lasting tribute. We also express our thanks to **Mary Murdoch** and all those who have taken on ministries to ensure that our parish remains a place where everyone can encounter the Risen Lord with LOVE.

**4. 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. 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.*

**5. 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.

**6. 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](http://www.oikoumene.org/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity)

### ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
31 May	Rosalie Ardagh	Bronwen Dauvin	Elizabeth Higgins
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Elizabeth Higgins	Carolina Adabe	Bronwen Dauvin

**Church set up for June 2025:** Lenise Kearns

### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Terry O'Connell	Terry O'Connell	Leonie Guiney	Cindy Sheehan	Rose Struthers
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Kevin O'Neil	Kevin O'Neil	Cath Hanrahan	Abella Family	Mary Calder

**Cleaners:** 30 May/6 Jun      Jo O'Neill      Mary Harris