



MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel
Communion | Participation | Mission



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

26th & 27th July 2025

READINGS AT MASS

- *Genesis 18:20-32.* Lord said Abraham; I will not destroy the town if there will only be ten just people in it.
- *Colossians 2:12-14.* God has made us alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.
- *Luke 11:1-13.* Ask and it will be given to you.

Jesus: Our Teacher and Model in Prayer

The Word of God this Sunday is centered on prayer. Prayer, in relation to our faith, is like the lungs in our body; healthy lungs help us live healthily. Likewise, without prayer, our faith gradually withers, our hope fades, and our love for God is forgotten.

Living in a world where many do not pray and where people spend more time on devices than in prayer, we too can be drawn into that same pattern. We may begin to see prayer as a burden rather than an opportunity to relax and connect with our loving God. If we do not prioritize prayer, we become like salt that loses its saltiness or light that no longer shines. Prayer is one of the things that distinguishes a believer from an unbeliever. Our ways of life are different: a believer prays and trusts in God, hopes in God, and lives in the charity of God, while an unbeliever relies only on themselves. For this reason, prayer teaches believers to trust even when everything has gone wrong in life.

Today's Gospel from Luke encourages believers never to give up on prayer. Jesus tells us: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13). Here, prayer trains us to be patient in a world full of people who demand instant gratification and rewards. Most importantly, prayer helps us grow in humility and authentic love in a world of superficiality and personal gain.

In prayer, we don't always need to ask for something material or seek to gain something. Sometimes, prayer is about letting go; surrendering our worries, bitterness, feelings of unworthiness, hatred, or pain. In prayer, we can also ask for forgiveness for ourselves and for others, just as Abraham interceded for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. More than being like good parents, our Father goes beyond the Law; he gives us far more than we deserve.

Finally, Jesus also teaches us how to pray by giving us the Our Father, the most important prayer in Christian life (Luke 11:1-13). This is because prayer is not about a transactional relationship, but prayer is primarily about a loving relationship between a child and the Father. It is both an act of worship and a deeply personal expression; both aspects are essential and interconnected. When we pray the Our Father, we are united with Jesus, who eternally communicates with the Father and the Holy Spirit. It never goes wrong to pray the Our Father. When we run out of words, let us simply recite this prayer to the rhythm of our hearts. At times, God may seem silent; not because he is absent, but because he is lovingly listening to us.

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 (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 27th July 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

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DIOCESE AND PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

1. Elizabeth Higgins: was called home by God in Christchurch, on July 22, 2025, aged 83 years, after a short illness, surrounded by her loving family. Dearly loved wife of Michael for 61 years; treasured mother and mother-in-law of Peter, Grant and Tina, Raewyn and Andrew, Dianne, Brent and Catherine; "Nan" to grandchildren Ben, Grace, Jacob, Anna, Isaac, Elizabeth, and Harriet; elder sister and sister-in-law of Raewyn Benzie OP (Invercargill), and Brent and Mary-Michal Benzie (USA); and special friend of Tina-Jane.

Funeral Mass - for Elizabeth will be celebrated at the All Saints Church, Twizel, on Tuesday, July 29, at 1.00pm, followed by private interment of Elizabeth's ashes.

We pray that she has seen Christ face to face and heard his voice; "Well done, good and faithful servant...come and enjoy my promise of eternal life." Forever loved, forever remembered. May God console her family with hope.

2. Thank You: A huge thank you to the Abella family for finding and donating the beautiful cabinet now placed at the back of St. Patrick's Church. It provides a perfect space to store our cups and supplies for the cuppa after Mass. The cabinet, made of wood, blends wonderfully with the church's interior, adding both function and charm. We are deeply grateful for the Abella family's generosity, love, and ongoing support of our parish community. *May God bless your family abundantly.*

3. Prayer Conference - Save The Date: As we journey through this Jubilee Year, the Bishop's Pastoral Office invites you to a one-day conference in Temuka with the theme "*Pilgrims of Hope*." The Saint Mary MacKillop Chapel in Temuka is a Sacred Jubilee Site for the Christchurch Diocese, making this a special opportunity for pilgrimage and reflection. The Jubilee Prayer Conference includes Mass, prayer, workshops, and keynote presentations from Bishop Michael, Fr Chris Eaton, and others.

Date: Sat 2nd August

Time: Begins with Mass at 9:15 AM, concludes at 5:00 PM

Cost: \$49 (includes morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea) - the parish can sponsor the tickets

For more information and to register, visit: <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/prayer-conference>

Contact Matt O'Connell: Phone: 03 366 9869. Email: moconnell@cdoc.nz

Twizel: Mary Murdoch

Fairlie: Tony Hill

4. Catholic Business Network Lunch: We invite you to join us for our final Catholic Business Network event of the year, featuring Leonie Guiney — South Canterbury dairy farmer, Fonterra Director, BNZ consultant, respected business leader, and committed Catholic.

Date: Thurs, Sep 11

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Venue: Rydges Latimer Christchurch

Leonie will speak candidly about the role of her Catholic faith and daily disciplines in sustaining her during challenging times, her sense of responsibility to "pay it forward" to the next generation, and the importance of acknowledging those who have supported her along the way.

With reflections from her time on the board of Fonterra and life on the land, Leonie offers a compelling perspective on values-based leadership, perseverance, and community. Reserve your place now at: www.cbn.nz

5. Fr Michael Pui's 25th Anniversary: You are invited to celebrate Fr Michael Pui's 25th Anniversary of Ordination on Sat, Aug 23. We will gather for Mass at 11.00am at St Patrick's church Fuller Street Kaiapoi. Mass will be followed by a shared lunch (Please bring a plate of finger food to share). All welcome. If you have any queries please contact Margaret on 327 0811.

ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
26 th July	Chris Grant	Carolina Adabe	Elizabeth Higgins
2 nd Aug	Mary Murdoch	Bronwen Dauvin	Kathleen Carpenter

Church set up for August 2025: Lenise Kearns

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
27 th July	Christine O'Connell	Christine O'Connell	Cath Hanrahan	Abella Family	Mary Calder
3 rd Aug	Terry O'Connell	Terry O'Connell	Rosemary Moran	Cath Hanrahan	Tony Hill