



# MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

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



## 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025

### READINGS AT MASS

- *Wisdom 9:13-18*. Who can comprehend the will of the Lord.
- *Psalms 89*. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.
- *Philemon 9-10, 12-17*. Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.
- *Luke 14:25-33*. All who do not renounce their possessions can not be my disciples.

### Jesus Calculates the Cost of Discipleship for Us

Today, Jesus calls us to give him priority above all relationships and everything we possess (Lk14:25–33). This is a great cost and a risky demand, yet it must be done in faith and with total trust in God's providence. Indeed, it cannot be done without God's grace and blessing. Sometimes this cost is very real; at other times, it is a test of our genuine faith and commitment.

Consider Abraham, who was asked to offer his son Isaac in sacrifice. God saw Abraham's faith and provided a ram in place of his son. Yet that was not the only demand: Abraham was also called to leave his family and homeland to go to a place God mysteriously pointed out. He set out in trust, not knowing where he was going, and God remained faithful to his promise, blessing Abraham and his descendants until today. The same costly trust was asked of Mary, our Blessed Mother. Conceiving our Lord by the Holy Spirit, not by her betrothed Joseph, placed her in an impossible situation to explain. Yet Mary trusted that God knew what he was doing in her life. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses; the Saints and Martyrs of the Church, let us throw off every burden and the sin that so easily entangles, and run with endurance the race set before us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who endured the cross, despising its shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:1–2).

The cost of true discipleship is both necessary and essential. As St. Augustine reminds us, "The greater the battle, the greater the victory." Why? Because Christ is alive. He is present in our lives at every moment, filling them with light and removing sorrow and solitude. Even if all others depart, he remains, as he promised: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). His unseen presence accompanies us wherever we go, for he not only came in the past, but comes to us today and every day, inviting us to set out toward new horizons (*Christus Vivit*, 125).

This is why Jesus spoke so strongly to the crowds about discernment and the demands of discipleship: "If anyone comes to me without hating father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple... none of you can be my disciple unless you give up all your possessions" (Luke 14:25–33).

Fr. Tien Cao

### Parish Contacts

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### Parish Website:

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

### Parish Facebook:

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

### Parish Priest:

Fr. Tien Cao

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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 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 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

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## DIOCESE AND PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

**1. Happy Father's Day:** This weekend, we also celebrate Father's Day, honoring the role of fatherhood in our lives. Theologically, all forms of fatherhood and manhood are rooted in God the Father. In contemplating the mystery of God, we also contemplate the beauty of fatherhood. True fatherhood, like God's, provides love, care, and protection for the family.

Pope Francis writes: *"Perhaps your experience of fatherhood has not been the best. Your earthly father may have been distant or absent, or harsh and domineering. Or maybe he was just not the father you needed. I don't know. But what I can tell you, with absolute certainty, is that you can find security in the embrace of your heavenly Father, of the God who first gave you life and continues to give it to you at every moment. He will be your firm support, but you will also realize that he fully respects your freedom"* (Christus Vivit NO. 113). In God's Word, we find many expressions of his love. It is as if he has sought different ways of showing that love, so that at least one of them might touch your heart. At times, God speaks of himself as an affectionate father who plays with his children: "I led them with cords of compassion, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks" (Hos 11:4). And he reveals that he sees in us a beauty that no one else can see: *"For you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you"* (Is 43:4).

**2. Social Justice Statement:** The New Zealand bishops have published their annual Social Justice Statement. It supports the celebration of Social Justice Week, which this year runs from September 7-13. The theme for this year's week is "Let's Build Peace Together". In their message, the bishops explain that the work of building peace is "the vocation of every Christian". Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has produced resources to support Social Justice Week, including in schools and parishes. Find the bishops' message and the resources at: <https://bit.ly/2025SJW>

**3. Prayer Request:** At their August 2023 Conference meeting, the bishops received a request from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) in NZ for an annual day of prayer to be added to the liturgical calendar. In response, Conference agreed to ask EOHSJ to provide two prayers of the faithful to be offered to parishes throughout New Zealand for use in liturgy on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Sunday, 14 September 2025. The EOHSJ has written to Conference providing the following prayers for this year:

- *For the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and its work* – that the LORD will give unfailing help to the work of the Order as it seeks to support and strengthen the Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land .... We pray to the Lord
- *For the Christians of the Holy Land* - that God in His kindness will give grace and peace to all Christians who live and worship in the lands where Our Lord Jesus Christ walked and taught. And may they be strengthened to be witnesses of peace and reconciliation to all who live in those lands.... We pray to the Lord.

**4. One Day Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage To Akaroa:** On Tues, Sep 9, the 185th anniversary of the first Catholic Marriage in Akaroa, join us on this one-day pilgrimage to one of our Jubilee Sacred Sites, St Patrick's in Akaroa. We will travel by bus and learn more about the foundations of the faith in the Christchurch Diocese. The pilgrimage will include Mass, talks, quiet time and more. The cost is to be confirmed but will include bus travel, morning and afternoon tea. Places are limited so please contact Matt O'Connell on [moconnell@cdoc.nz](mailto:moconnell@cdoc.nz) or 03 366 9869 to reserve your place now.

**5. 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 using a prayer for vocations written by Pope Francis. Prayer cards are available at the back of your church or [online at the Diocesan website](https://www.catholic.org.nz/). For more information contact the Vocations Coordinator Matt O'Connell on 366-9869 or [moconnell@cdoc.nz](mailto:moconnell@cdoc.nz)

### ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Gerry Dauvin	Lenise Kearns	Bronwen Dauvin
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Chris Grant	Carolina Aldabe	Rosalie Ardagh

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

### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex'Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Gary Brosnahan	Gary Brosnahan	Leonie Guiney	Leonie Guiney	Rose Struthers
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Lisa Holden	Lisa Holden	Cath Hanrahan	Neville Smith	Mary Calder

**Morning Tea:** Abella Family – **FATHER'S DAY – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**St. Patrick's Church Cleaning Roster:** 12 Sept/19 Sept

Rosie Clark / Tessa Gallagher