

SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA
Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence
Bulletin – 3 April 2022

Pastoral Area Assistant:

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Parish Council Contacts:

Balclutha – Pauline Dodds:418 1230 **Milton** – Peter Mallon:417 8181 **Lawrence** – Geoffrey Blackmore:485 9503
Stephanie Bowden – Secretary – 021 238 6668

Weekend Masses:

Lawrence – 5.30pm Saturday
1st Sunday – 11am

Milton – 9am Sunday

Balclutha – 10.30am Sunday
1st Sunday – 5.30pm Vigil

Weekday Masses:

Lawrence – 4pm Wednesday

Milton – 9am Saturday

Balclutha – 10am Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Reconciliation - On request, or:

Balclutha prior to Vigil Mass @ 5pm, Milton after 9am Mass Saturdays, Lawrence prior to Vigil Mass

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year C

3rd April – 5th Sunday of Lent – Isaiah 43:16-21, Philipians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11

10th April – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Isaiah 50:4-7, Philipians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14-23:56

17th April – Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord – Acts 10:34.37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9

24th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy – Acts 5:12-16, Apocalypse 1:9-13.17-19, John 20:19-31

1st May – 3rd Sunday of Easter – Acts 5:27-32.40-41, Apocalypse 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

Easter:

Galilee is the place where the disciples were first called, where everything began! To return there, to return to the place where they were originally called... To return to Galilee means to re-read everything on the basis of the cross and its victory, fearlessly: *Do not be afraid*. To re-read everything – Jesus' preaching, his miracles, the new community, the excitement and the defections, even the betrayal – to re-read everything starting from the end, which is a new beginning, from this supreme act of love. For each of us, too, there is a "Galilee" at the origin of our journey with Jesus. "To go to Galilee" means something beautiful; it means rediscovering our baptism as a living fountainhead, drawing new energy from the sources of our faith and our Christian experience. To return to Galilee means above all to return to that blazing light with which God's grace touched me at the start of the journey. From that flame I can light a fire for today and every day, and bring heat and light to my brothers and sisters. That flame ignites a humble joy, a joy which sorrow and distress cannot dismay, a good, gentle joy. In the life of every Christian, after baptism there is also another "Galilee", a more existential "Galilee": the experience of a personal encounter with Jesus Christ who called me to follow him and to share in his mission. In this sense, returning to Galilee means treasuring in my heart the living memory of that call, when Jesus passed my way, gazed at me with mercy, and asked me to follow him. To return there means reviving the memory of that moment when his eyes met mine, the moment when he made me realise that he loved me.

Today... each of us can ask: *What is my Galilee? I need to remind myself, to go back and remember. Where is my Galilee? Do I remember it? Have I forgotten it? Seek and you will find it! There the Lord is waiting for you. Have I gone off the roads and paths which made me forget it? Lord, help me: tell me what my Galilee is; for you know that I want to return there to encounter you and to let myself be embraced by your mercy.* Do not be afraid, do not fear, return to Galilee!

The Gospel is very clear: we need to go back there, to see Jesus risen, and to become witnesses of his Resurrection. This is not to go back in time; it is not a kind of nostalgia. It is returning to our first love in order to receive the fire which Jesus has kindled in the world and to bring that fire to all people, to the very ends of the earth. Go back to Galilee, without fear! Pope Francis

We pray for: those recently deceased and those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Jenna Craig, Tom Evans, Leonard Carruthers, Agnes Stevenson, Ted Gallagher, Cornelia Reimink, Colleen Hansen, Rosaleen Humphries, Cor Conijn, Frances Knight.

Retirement: We wish Fr Chris O'Neill every blessing as he prepares for the next part of his life journey; his retirement and resettling in Canterbury. Thank you, Fr Chris for the time you have spent with us in South Otago, your gentleness, wisdom and friendship. God bless you abundantly and remember us in your prayers.

After Easter we will welcome Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai to our Pastoral Area from Southland. May his time with us be blest and fruitful.

“Pope Francis wants to hear from you!” The bishops are using this direct papal message to invite people – Catholic or not – to take part in a survey for the ongoing international synod on the future direction of the Church. The survey is being advertised on Stuff and in social media such as Facebook. Please share it with friends. Details including a link to the survey: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-feedback/>

Situations Vacant: Catholic Prison Chaplains at Otago Corrections Facility, Milburn and Invercargill Prison. Can you help us show the love of God inside the prison walls? Use your ministry skills to co-ordinate religious services and provide pastoral support? Both are part-time positions. Details, Job Description and Application Form are available on the diocesan website www.cdd.org.nz

Nano Nagle Charitable Trust (NNCT) has been supporting children who have been unable to attend a Catholic School, because of financial hardship, since 2010. The income to fund this comes from fund-raising events and generous donations from individuals and others. The donors' funds are 100% given to needy children to attend a Catholic school. At our last Trustee meeting in November 2021, approval to help 26 children (11 families) was endorsed for \$20,559. If you wish to assist in this worthy cause by making a taxable donation to Nano Nagle Charitable Trust, please deposit funds into 03 1736 0513225 00.

Make sure you put your name on the deposit and contact us so we can send out a receipt. If any questions, please call Veronica Casey on 489 8120 or Mike Bunt 027 221 2159

Easter Celebrations 2022

Mass of the Oils – St Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin Wednesday 13th April 10.00am

Confessions – Lawrence: TBA

Balclutha: Thursday 7th April, at Exposition, Holy Hour and
Benediction, 6.30pm

Milton: TBA

Masses of Anointing of the Sick – Lawrence: TBA

Balclutha: Friday 8th April, 10.00am

Milton: TBA

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Balclutha

Holy Thursday - 7.30pm

Good Friday - 3.00pm

Holy Saturday – 7.30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday – 2.00pm, Fr Sani celebrates Mass with our Young Adults group. All welcome

Lawrence

Easter Sunday

11.00am

Milton

Easter Sunday

9.00am

