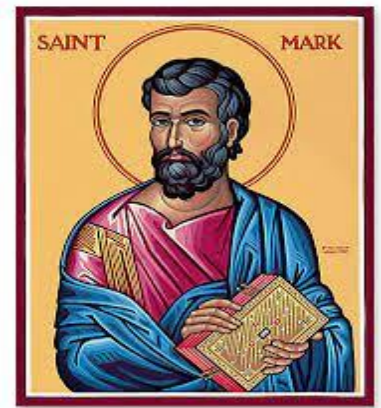


SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA

Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence

Bulletin 14 April 2024



Feast of St Mark, the Evangelist 26th April

The Evangelist Mark is believed to have been the “John Mark” of the Acts of the Apostles. In his first letter, Peter sends greetings from himself and “Mark my son.” Saint Irenaus tells us that after Peter’s martyrdom, “Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, transmitted to us in writing what Peter had preached.” Perhaps directly reflecting Saint Peter’s own homiletic style, Mark’s Gospel reads with the immediacy of an eyewitness account. It is rich with narrative detail.

Mark is said to have gone to Alexandria, Egypt, after Peter’s martyrdom. He is thought to have been martyred in Egypt and is that country’s patron.

Reflection: Though little is known for certain about Saint Mark’s life, the Gospel attributed to him is unquestionably one of the most important scripts ever written. In a nearly breathless way, Mark recounts Jesus’ public ministry in concise and vivid detail. The shortest of the four Gospels is packed with information. Mark’s Gospel was most likely written primarily for Roman Gentiles, rather than for Jews, which is why he often describes various Jewish customs to the reader. Ponder the significance of this one man. It appears he began his life fearful of his mission. He ran when Jesus was arrested, left Barnabas and Paul on their missionary journey, but he didn’t give up. He turned back to the mission and ultimately died a martyr, bestowing on us one of the greatest treasures ever given.

If you feel regret at any failure, or even numerous failures in your life, take inspiration from Saint Mark. Failures can be remedied. Recommit yourself to God’s mission, and know that, if you do, God will use you in unimaginable ways.

Prayer: *Saint Mark, I thank you for your “Yes” to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Thank you for your ministry and especially for your Gospel account. Please pray for me, that I may never tire of turning back to the mission that God has entrusted to me. May I imitate your fidelity and*

hard work for Christ, going so far as to lay my life down for others. Saint Mark, pray for me.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year B

14th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter – Acts 3:13-15,17-19, Letter of 1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48

21st April – 4th Sunday of Easter – Acts 4:8-12, Letter of 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

28th April – 5th Sunday of Easter – Acts 9:26-31, Letter of 1 John 18-24, John 15:1-8

5th May – 6th Sunday of Easter – Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48, Letter of 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-

Parish Priest – Fr Jacob

Thevasahayampillai

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Stephanie Bowden, Secretary:

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Milton – Peter Mallon:

417 8181

Lawrence – Geoffrey Blackmore:

485 9503

Mass Times:

Lawrence – 5.30pm Saturday

Lawrence – 4pm Wednesday

1st Sunday – 11am

Milton – 9am Sunday

Milton – 9am Saturday

Balclutha – 10.30am Sunday

1st Sunday – 5.30pm Saturday

Balclutha – 10am Tuesday,

Thursday & Friday

Reconciliation:

On request, or

Balclutha prior to 1st Sunday

Mass, Saturday @ 5pm

Milton after 9am Mass Saturdays

Lawrence prior to Saturday Mass

We pray for the 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.**

Sacristan Role – St Mary MacKillop Church: Our Sacristan, Les, is going to be away from late May until mid-September and we are seeking someone to act as Sacristan during his absence. The duties involve – ensuring the Altar is set up for Mass. – that the Host and Wine are prepared for Consecration and ready for the Offertory Procession. – the Altar is cleared and the chalice and cruets are cleaned at the end of Mass. If you feel that you could undertake this role (or share it) for 8-10 weeks over winter and would like to know more, please either chat to Les at Mass or give him a ring on 427 1979 or 027 294 9980 to find out more.

Remember – the Seminary Appeal in the Offertory Collection for **21st April**. All proceeds to those preparing for the Priesthood in our National Seminary, Auckland.

Fr Jacob is now settling in to the new Pastoral Area office, in the Mary MacKillop Centre, attached to the end of St Joseph's School Junior Room – to begin with he will be in attendance there on Tuesday's from after 10.00am Mass until 1.00pm. If you would like to make an appointment to see him during this time, he would welcome you very much!

Pope Francis has inaugurated a Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee, calling on the faithful “to intensify prayer to prepare us to live well this event of grace and to experience the power of God’s hope.”

A ‘Jubilee Year’ suggests Pilgrimage - We may not all be able to ‘go on a journey’ of pilgrimage to Rome or other Holy places but we can journey in our own parishes, communities and families. Let us look first at the LOGO chosen for this year of Jubilee 2025:

The Cross of Christ is the abandoned because we especially in the most

The figures represent of the world. They are illustrate the solidarity holds on to the cross.

The Cross, in the shape of anchor that imposes A universal symbol of Hope.



hope that cannot ever be are always in need of it, difficult moments.

humanity from the four corners embracing each other to between the peoples, as the first

a sail, is transformed into an itself over the waves in motion.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater Hope.

The Logo shows how the way of the pilgrimage is not an individual effort, but rather collective, with the impression of a growing dynamism that tends more and more to the Cross.