

# SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA

## Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence

### Bulletin – 7 August 2022

Pastoral Area Assistant:  
Stephanie Swann – 03 485 9996

Parish Priest – Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai – 03 417 8603

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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  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 11am

**Milton** – 9am Sunday  
Saturday

**Balclutha** – 10.30am Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 5.30pm Vigil

#### Weekday Masses:

**Lawrence** – 4pm Wednesday

**Milton** – 9am

**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

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#### SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year C

7<sup>th</sup> August – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time – Wisdom 18:6-9, Hebrews 11:1-2.8-19, Luke 12:32-48

14<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time – Jeremiah 38:4-6.8-10, Hebrews 12:1-4, Luke 12:49-53

21<sup>st</sup> August – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time – Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7.11-13, Luke 13:22-30

28<sup>th</sup> August – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time – Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20.28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19.22-24, Luke 14:1.7-14

4<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time – Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10.12-17, Luke 14:25-33



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Hope all are keeping well. We are nearing Spring! So looking forward to warmer weather and sunshine.

In the Month of August, we have two celebrations of Mary.

15<sup>th</sup> of August is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary Mother of God.

8<sup>th</sup> of August marks the Feast Day of St. Mary MacKillop the patron saint of Balclutha Church and school.

I am quoting from the New Zealand Bishop's Conference on the Feast Day of Mary MacKillop on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

“St. Mary MacKillop is truly a woman for our time. Her holiness, powered by her deep love of God, together with her street-wise philosophy, make her a model of hope for all who grapple with doubt, misunderstanding and injustice. She brings us the gift of hope.”

Pope Benedict, in his 2009 Encyclical, Spe Salvi, on Christian Hope, tells us that “the saints were able to make the great journey of human existence in the way that Christ had done before them, because they were brimming with hope.”

Mary MacKillop presents a way of life in direct contrast to the contemporary world of glamour, wealth and power. Her beauty, riches and strength came from within. Her own “great journey of human existence” was a journey of unshakable hope, travelled in the companionship of the God of Jesus Christ, her reason for being.

May Saint Mary MacKillop guide us on our own “great journey,” keeping us hope-filled and faithful.

**May she intercede for all of us in the South Otago Pastoral area, to live the journey of unshakable hope. May her street-wise philosophy move all of us in the direction of the needy and the neglected.**

Thank you all for your spiritual zeal and generous support. God bless all.

Fr. Jacob

**We pray for:** those recently deceased and those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Margaret Beck, Leo Hugtenburg, Nick Wiersma, Patricia Chisholm, Bernardina Keating, Annie Allan, John Fitzsimmons, Lois Ford, Leo Groenewegen and Clifford Jury.**

**St Mary of the Cross, MacKillop – Feast Day Monday 8 August.**

Mass will be celebrated 10.00am @ St Mary MacKillop Church, Balclutha All are welcome.

Note – there will be no 10am Mass in Balclutha, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

**Ordination to Diaconate** - Suu Van Nguyen, Joseph Long Van Nguyen and Peter Chadwick are to be ordained as deacons for the **Diocese of Dunedin**. This will be hosted by the Holy Cross Seminary and will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 in Sacred Heart Church Ponsonby, Auckland. Please keep Suu, Joseph and Peter in your prayers.

**Prison Chaplaincy** - Iosefa Setu was recently appointed to the position of Prison Chaplain to both Otago and Invercargill prisons. Iosefa, his wife Fania and their four children are valued members of the Balclutha Parish. For the past three years Iosefa and his wife Fania have been meeting with Fr Mark Chamberlain as Iosefa has been preparing for the permanent diaconate. We ask God to bless Iosefa in his prison ministry and his continued study and discernment.

**New Zealand Bisoph's Conference Youth Council** - Linea Simons is the Dunedin Diocesan representative on this Youth Council. They keep in touch with youth and plan events. World Youth Day (Lisbon, Portugal), is coming up in 2023. Plans are underway on an itinerary for this. If you are interested and would like to know more email Linea: [lineagracie@gmail.com](mailto:lineagracie@gmail.com)

**Social Justice Week** - Each year the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand set aside a week in September for Social Justice Week, inviting us to reflect and take action on a current social justice issue.

Social Justice Week 2022 runs from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September and focuses on the topic of racism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The title of the Caritas resource this year is - Whakakahoretia te Kaikiri. Kotahi ano tatou i roto i te Karaiti/Say no to racism. We are one in Christ. Each church has received booklets for personal or group discussion around this topic. You may wish to gather and have a conversation. As we journey through this Social Justice Week the key question for each of us to reflect on is: "how are we becoming one in Christ?"

**Sacramental Programme** – Please keep in your prayers the students of St Mary's and St Joseph's who are beginning their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There is still time for those within the wider Pastoral Area to enroll to take part.

Please let Fr Jacob or Stephanie know so that you may be included.

See Phone numbers & email address page 1.

**Relevant Matters that were discussed at St Mary's July Parish Meeting - Milton**

An invitation was extended to our parishioners to attend our 31 July meeting. 5 committee members, 4 other parishioners and Father Jacob were in attendance with 4 apologies received.

The main topic was how we see ourselves combining with Lawrence and Balclutha. A good discussion was had, with everyone in attendance in favour of pursuing this option. Father is to obtain a financial balance sheet for the year ending March 2022, to be presented at next month's meeting to clarify our financial position. We then intend to host a meeting and invite representatives from Balclutha and Lawrence to discuss all aspects of what being a Pastoral Area actually means!