

SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA
Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence Bulletin
12 February 2023

Pastoral Area Assistant:
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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
1st Sunday – 11am

Milton – 9am Sunday
Saturday

Balclutha – 10.30am Sunday
1st 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

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year A

12th February – **6th Sunday Ordinary Time** – Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:17-37

19th February – **7th Sunday Ordinary Time** – Leviticus 19:1-2.17-18, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, Matthew 5:38-48

22nd February – **Ash Wednesday** – Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6.16-18

26th February – **1st Sunday of Lent** – Genesis 2:7-9.3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

5th March – **2nd Sunday of Lent** – Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus – a troublesome guest

In a reflection on the story of Martha and Mary, Pheme Perkins, a theologian at Boston College, commented that Jesus can be a difficult guest in our lives.

Imagine him visiting us – he does not come in a formal way, arriving at a pre-arranged time, sitting down with the best china for a cup of tea and sticking to the social rules. He does not engage in polite chitchat.

Rather, he is the person who, unannounced, knocks on our door, finds us in a bit of a mess, with the daily chores waiting to be done, props himself up against the bench in the kitchen, not bothered about the type of mug we offer, and gives us a bit of a hard time.

Mary warned us in the Magnificat, that he would be turning the world upside-down, 'bringing down the powerful, raising the lowly.'

Pope Francis often refers to the God of surprises, and here is Jesus, in our kitchen, listening to our woes, challenging us, using stories to explain it all to us. He is intolerant, as Francis also reminds us, of the idea that we just do things the same old way. He shocks us with the idea that attaining wealth will not benefit us; that there is a poor man on our doorstep whom we have been ignoring; that the poor are always with us. Not just pointing out these things, but asking us what we are going to do about it. There are many, he tells us, who have gone before us, finding it hard to change course and give up the ways of the world to follow his path.

A visit like this will certainly unsettle my day – just give me a moment, Lord, to take all this in – can you come back again soon? We will take up this conversation, and I will be able to see how far I have got along the path that you are laying out for me. Be patient, Lord, with me – I will try my best, but it is a big (yet beautiful) ask.

(Bridget Taumoepeau)

We pray for: those recently deceased, **Barrie Delaney** and those whose anniversaries are at this time: **John Soper** and **Eileen Fitzgerald**.

Thank you to Bishop Colin and Fr Damian for their support and Masses while Fr Jacob is in Sri Lanka. God bless them all, and keep Fr Jacob well and safe in his travels. May his time with family and friends be uplifting and enjoyable.

Young Adult's Group – At Mass on **Sunday 19th February** in Balclutha, the Young Adult's Group will be leading the Liturgy and receive a Commissioning/Blessing from Bishop Colin as they continue to grow and develop in their special Ministry. God bless them all.

Save the Date - A Lenten Retreat is being planned in Balclutha for **Sunday 12th March**. This will include Mass and input from Fr Pat McGettigan. We hope that as many parishioners as possible from the Pastoral Area, will be able to attend and benefit from this spiritual input on their Lenten and Faith journey. Mark the date on your calendar now. There will be more details to follow soon...

Pastoral Area Picnic – This will be held after the School Parish/Family Mass in the St Joseph's School grounds, Balclutha on **Sunday 26th March**. That is from 11.30am.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring your own picnic food for your family. The Mary MacKillop Centre will be open with hot water tea, coffee and milk provided. Traditional picnic games will be available for all ages too 😊 We'll pray for fine weather.

Ways to journey through Lent:

Weekday Masses/Liturgies, Food Bank Contributions, Caritas donation envelopes, maybe there's a Caritas Lenten Gospel Reflection group in your area or Stations of the Cross... Check your local notice board. Plan your Lenten calendar today 😊

Prayer for the New Year

**God of this new year,
we are walking into
mystery.**

**We face the future,
not knowing what the days and months
will bring to us or how we will respond.**

Be love in us as we journey.

May we welcome all who come our way.

Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes.

**Fill us with hope and an abiding trust
that you dwell in us amidst our joys and sorrows.**

Thank you for the treasure of our faith life.

**Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day
with the assurance of your walking through the day with us.**

God of this new year, we praise you.

Amen (Joyce Rupp)

ASH WEDNESDAY

22nd February 2023

MASS TIMES:

Balclutha 10.00am

Milton – 1.30pm

Lawrence – 5.00pm



It is a real blessing to start the new year with very little Covid-19 infections in our region. Please continue all the necessary and well-known protocols if you are unwell. Just a reminder that there are still Rat's tests and masks freely available at our Churches if you would like to have some at home. Thank you.