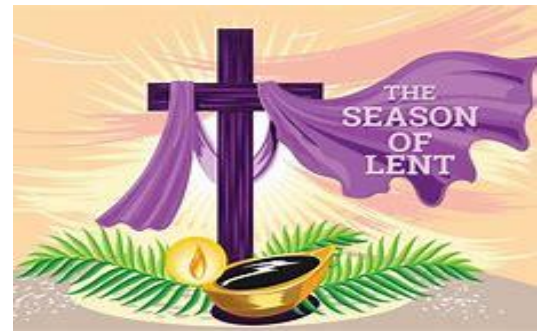


SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA

Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence

Bulletin 4th February 2024



Dear Sisters and brothers,

The Season of Lent starts

on the 14th of February with Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time of fasting, praying and almsgiving. The theme for the Caritas Lent Resources for 2024 is The Time is Now!

Ko Tēnei tonu te Wā!

The question that follows this is, "Time for What?" It is time for preparation, time for encounter, time for justice, time for love, time for sacrifice, and time for hope. As we focus on the three pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, we naturally connect with God and look to serve others. It is indeed time to renew our relationship with God, and to consider practical ways we can be bearers of God's love to those around us.

During Lent New Zealand's Catholic Bishop's invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishop's Lent appeal helps to fund both emergency relief work and development around the world. Please donate, as you are able, on line at www.caritas.org.nz or using the envelopes provided at Mass.



PRAY



FAST



GIVE

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year B

4th February – 5th Sunday Ordinary Time – Job 7:1-4. 6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19.22-23, Mark 1:29-39

11th February – 6th Sunday Ordinary Time – Leviticus 13:1-2 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45

14th February – Ash Wednesday – Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6.16-18

18th February – 1st Sunday of Lent – Genesis 9:8-15, Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

25th February – 2nd Sunday of Lent – Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent – Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

Parish Priest – Fr Jacob

Thevasahayampillai

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Balclutha – Pauline Dodds:

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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: **Barrie Delaney, John Soper, and Eileen Fitzgerald.**



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.”

In remarks after the Angelus on Sunday, the Holy Father explained that the Year of Prayer is dedicated “to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world.”

He added that the Dicastery for Evangelization will be preparing materials to assist in celebrating the Year.

The Parish Pastoral Council in Balclutha will be holding a special meeting on the 7th February to discuss and plan for the year 2024. Our focus will be on the Jubilee Year (Year of prayer) and Lent (time of renewal). We will also discuss this in other Pastoral areas of Milton and Lawrence. May I kindly invite you all to suggest and share what spiritual exercises would help our Parish to grow stronger in our faith and our relationships. I would like to include your ideas in our parish discussion. You may either email me, Pauline Dodds or Stephanie Bowden to share your valuable suggestions. We would like to receive your inputs before the 6th February.

God bless all and your families.

Fr. Jacob

ASH WEDNESDAY

14th February 2024

MASS TIMES:

Balclutha 10.00am

Milton – 1.30pm

Lawrence – 4.00pm



Centenary: St John the Baptist Church, Alexandra is celebrating 100 years! All past and present parishioners are invited to attend a weekend of celebration 20-21 April 2024. For further details contact the website: alexcatholic.nz

The refurbishment and extensions of the Balclutha Mary MacKillop Centre/Parish Room is almost complete. A working **fridge, microwave, and standard oven/range** are available to give away. If you are interested in any of these items contact Fr Jacob or one of the Balclutha Parish contacts.



Pastoral Area

Picnic

This will be held after the School Parish/Family Mass, 10.30am

St Joseph's School grounds, Balclutha

Sunday 18th February.

Lunch from 11.30am. **Everyone is welcome.**

Please bring your own picnic food for your family. The school barbeque will also be available for use. Hot water, tea, coffee and milk provided. Traditional picnic games will be played for all ages to enjoy 😊 Please pray for fine weather.

Story for the week

Saving the broken pieces: At the Royal Palace of Tehran in Iran, you can see one of the most beautiful mosaic works in the world. The ceilings and walls flash like diamonds with multifaceted reflections. Originally, when the palace was designed, the architect specified huge sheets of mirrors on the walls. When the first shipment arrived from Paris, they found to their horror that the mirrors were shattered. The contractor threw them in the trash and brought the sad news to the architect. Amazingly, the architect ordered all of the broken pieces collected, then smashed them into tiny pieces and glued them to the walls to become a mosaic of silvery, shimmering, mirrored bits of glass. Broken to become beautiful! It's possible to turn your scars into stars. It's possible to be better because of the brokenness. Never underestimate God's power to repair and restore. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus brought healing to so many broken-hearted people.

Thought for this 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds' [Ps 147]

In the Gospel reading for Sunday, we see Jesus healing and bringing God's compassionate love to those in need.

In our lives, how do we lovingly respond to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth?

"Lord... Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love..."

[Pope Francis Laudate Si - 246]