

SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA
Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence Bulletin
2nd July 2023

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
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

2nd July – 13th Sunday Ordinary Time – 2 Kings 4:8-11.14-16, Romans 6:3-4.8-11, Matthew 10:37-42

9th July – 14th Sunday Ordinary Time – Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9.11-13, Matthew 11:25-30

16th July – 15th Sunday Ordinary Time – Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23

23rd July – 16th Sunday Ordinary Time – Wisdom 12:13.16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43

30th July – 17th Sunday Ordinary Time – 1 Kings 3:5.7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52

6th August – The Transfiguration of the Lord – Daniel 7:9-10.13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 17:1-9

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE - the pilgrim Saint

July 25th is the Feast of St. James the Greater, one of the Twelve Apostles and the first of them to be martyred. St. James is reputed to have been the first Christian missionary to Spain, and after his execution, his remains were brought from Jerusalem to Galicia for safekeeping. A shrine was built to honor his memory, which was destroyed by the Romans during a persecution of the Church. St. James's relics were lost until they were rediscovered under miraculous circumstances in the year 814 AD. These relics quickly became a focal point of pilgrimage, and in the year 1075 AD, the construction of the grand cathedral of Santiago de Compostela was begun. The shrine was consecrated in the 1128. Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela has been constant since the Middle Ages, and thousands have walked the sacred way to the cathedral, which stretches about 500 miles from Biarritz in France all the way to Compostela. The idea of walking 500 miles to a religious shrine may not be viewed by many as the ideal holiday. But this is precisely the point—a pilgrimage is not a holiday. A pilgrimage is directed by a spiritual itinerary rather than an agenda of leisure. The grace offered and accepted in the course of the sacred way is not easy; it is meant to further the transformation of the pilgrim—the fulfillment of which is not simply to view the relics or marvel at the splendor of a shrine, but to become a saint oneself. 'St James, pray with us on our daily pilgrimage.' **Fr Steve Grunow**

Quotation for the **Feast of St James** 25th July:

James 5:13-14

‘Are any among you suffering? They should pray.

Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

We pray for: the recently deceased little still born child of Linda Auvele, with prayers for her and all the extended family and those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Anton Wesselingh, Cor Tamis, Imelda Donovan, Ted Coll, Henry McKendrick, Gerry van der Vorn, Gladys Baird, Nola Habib, Margaret May, Timotheus Heerschop, and Eileen Storey.**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour – concluding with Benediction, will be observed in St Mary MacKillop Church, Balclutha, on the First Friday of the month.

This month 7th July from 6.00-7.00pm

Monthly Mass - Please join with Fr Elie Sangco from the Gore Parish for Mass at the St Mary MacKillop Church at **6.30pm. This month Friday 14th July.** A chance for all the Filipino community specially, to gather for Mass and a shared meal afterwards in the Mary MacKillop Centre behind the Church. All are welcome.

Bed base & mattress request – New arrivals to our parish in Balclutha request a bed and mattress that you no longer need, if possible, please. If you are able to help, contact Pauline 03 418 1230 for other details. Thank you.

Confirmation & First Holy Communion

Bishop Michael Dooley will be in the Pastoral Area:

Sunday 23rd July – Balclutha for 10.30am Mass

Sunday 30th July – Milton for 9.00am Mass

18 candidates in Balclutha and 3 in Milton will complete their Sacraments of Initiation on these days. We ask that all continue to pray for these students and their families at this very special time in their Sacramental journey.

It is always a highlight when our busy Bishop is able to be with us and he enjoys meeting his flock around the large Otago and Southland Diocese.

Please stay after Mass on this day, if you can, as we meet with him and celebrate as a Parish Family. Morning tea will be held in the Mary MacKillop Centre behind the Church after Mass and at the back of the Church in Milton on these two days. Please bring finger food to share. Tea, coffee and drink for the children, will be provided.

Ordinations – it was a beautiful day in Invercargill Saturday 24th June as the Ordination to the Priesthood of two young men took place at St Therese of Lisieux Parish in Windsor. About 40 Priests from around our Diocese and the country were in attendance and the Church was packed with family and friends from Vietnam, and other parishes and schools from around the city and Diocese. Fr Joseph Long Nguyen and Fr John the Baptist Suu Nguyen have now begun their Priestly Ministry in Dunedin and Invercargill. We thank God for their vocation and ask that they know the prayerful and actual support of their parishioners and priestly colleagues.

Gracious and Loving Father, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all. You have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve...

...Situation Vacant: Please consider if you would be willing to take over the once-a-month compilation of the Pastoral Area Bulletin. A 'new look' maybe; local news, interesting articles, prayer, devotions and upcoming events. Working with Fr Jacob and each Parish, computer compilation & presentation experience will be necessary. Let Fr Jacob know or email the parish address if you would like to share your gift in this way. Commencing for the August edition... now looming!