

# **SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA**

## **Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence Bulletin**

### **5 March 2023**

**Pastoral Area Assistant:**  
Stephanie Swann – 03 485 9996

**Parish Priest – Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai – 03 417 8603**

**Email:** [catholicchurchclutha@gmail.com](mailto:catholicchurchclutha@gmail.com) **Website:** [www.balcluthacatholicparish.org](http://www.balcluthacatholicparish.org)

#### **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 A**

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

**12<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent** – Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2.5-8, John 4:5-42

**19<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent** – Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

**26<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent** – Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45

**2<sup>nd</sup> April – Palm Sunday** – (Procession - Matt 21:1-11), Isaiah 50:4-7, Philipians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66

#### **God Is On the Journey Too**

Pope Francis has spoken of Lent as ‘A new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ’s victory over death’.

Lent is a precious opportunity for us, individually and communally, to stop and reflect. Here we can consider the opportunities, and challenges that face us. Lent asks us to open our lives and hearts once again to God.

Growth, transformation and deeper faith are offered: will we accept?

In some ways, we know that we have been here before – yet time and life stand still for no one. Our personal challenges and frailties are still our well-known companions, but each year Lent brings new opportunities to take a few more steps on the path to holiness, to the deep peace God wants for us.

For some, Lent has associations with feelings of inadequacy: we are confronted with the fact that we are not yet all we are called to be. There is no doubt that Lent calls us to some solid soul-searching, but we are not alone.

We can take comfort in the words of Teresa of Avila that as we walk along the path before us there is no need to be discouraged because ‘The feeling remains that God is on the journey, too’.

On Lent’s annual pilgrimage, the lectionary provides readings that nourish us – and challenge us – as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem; to his passion, death and resurrection. Every year the scriptures give us a wealth of prompts for our reflections, prayers, and discussions. As we begin this journey the sage words of Francis de Sales come to mind: ‘Have patience in all things, but, first of with yourself.’

Fr Christopher Monaghan CP

**We pray for:** those recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries are at this time:  
**Ronald Hand, Sylvia Duffy, William Bunbury, Brenda James, Thelma Scanlan, John Coll.**

Thank you again to Bishop Colin and Fr Damian for their support and Masses while Fr Jacob was in Sri Lanka. God bless them all. Safe travel and welcome back Fr Jacob. We hope your stay was truly blest.

**Christian Meditation Gathering** - You are invited to join with others to learn, discuss, question and experience this ancient form of silent prayer.  
This will be a relaxed, informal introduction to meditation from a Christian perspective. Being held in Sacred Heart Hall, 89 North East Valley on **Saturday 11th March** from **10.30am to 2.30pm**. Admission free...tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Any further information: Frank Meenan 027 658 7964

**Lenten Retreat 2023, hosted by the Little Sisters of the Poor ‘Tenderness of God’s Love – A Lenten Journey with the Prodigal Son’**

Who: Single, Catholic women aged 18 – 40, Where: 295 Brockville Road, Dunedin  
When: Saturdays - 11th & 25th March, 2023 Time: 9.30am – 5.00pm Cost: Donation  
For registration or more information contact Sr Mary Lourdes [sc@lspdun.co.nz](mailto:sc@lspdun.co.nz) or 03 4762028 [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org.au](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org.au)

**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.

**Charismatic Conference – ‘Receive Holy Spirit Power’  
Friday, 24 March, 7 p.m. to Sunday, 26 March, 2 p.m.**

This Conference is at El Rancho, 58 Weggery Drive, Waikanae Beach, Kapiti Coast.

**Speakers:** Opening Message: Cardinal John Dew

**Keynote speakers:** Dr Mary Healy (USA); Robert Falzon (MenALIVE); Fr John Rea SM  
Final Mass Celebrant: Archbishop Paul Martin, SM

**Registration Fee:** \$135.00 which includes meals. Registrations close 8 March.

Onsite Accommodation is available at different rates.

**Registration:** [www.currentofgraceconference.info](http://www.currentofgraceconference.info)

Website for further information: [charisnz.com](http://charisnz.com) or Facebook: [m.facebook.com/charis/nz/](https://m.facebook.com/charis/nz/)

**Liturgy Workshop -**

Presented by Catherine Gibb & Fr John O’Connor from the National Liturgy Office and based on Pope Francis’s letter *Desiderio Desideravi*

- Friday 24th March 6-8pm at St. Theresa’s Invercargill, 40 Perth St.
- Saturday 25th March 10am-3pm (soup lunch provided for a donation/koha) at St. Bernadette’s School in Dunedin, 16 Forbury Rd

Please register to attend at one of the venues with [amy@cdd.org.nz](mailto:amy@cdd.org.nz)

**Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal** – The Catholic Caring Foundation has launched an appeal to support the communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. Donations can be made to the Catholic Caring Foundation 06 0901 0054866 00. Use your name as the code and please email [paulinel@cdd.org.nz](mailto:paulinel@cdd.org.nz) so that a tax receipt can be issued. Thank you.