

**SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA**  
**Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence**  
**Bulletin – 8 May 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

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

**Weekday Masses:**

**Lawrence** – 4pm Wednesday

**Milton** – 9am Saturday

**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**

**8<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** – Acts 13:14.43-52, Apocalypse 7:9.14-17, John 10:27-30

**15<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** – Acts 14:21-27, Apocalypse 21:1-5, John 13:31-35

**22<sup>nd</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** – Acts 15:1-2.22-29, Apocalypse 21:10-14.22-23, John 14:23-29

**29<sup>th</sup> May – The Ascension of the Lord** – Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53

**5<sup>th</sup> June – Pentecost** – Acts 2:1-11, Romans 8:8-17, John 14:15-16.23-26

**May – the month of Our Lady**

One hundred and five years ago, on 13 May 1917, our Lady appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal. Frightened by her appearance, she calmed them by saying: “Please don’t be afraid of me, I’m not going to harm you.” In addition to her call for conversion, penitence, and prayer, Our Lady of Fatima calls us to live a life free from all fear.

We might think that the children at Fatima were naturally skittish and so were afraid when they saw the vision of the Blessed Mother, but even adults show fear when confronted with God. It does seem strange perhaps that the deepest desire of our heart, that is, to be united with God for ever in heaven, would cause us fear, but yet we know this to be the case when we avoid sacramental confession, the sacrifices necessary for an intense prayer life, or even the abandonment of our sins. We are afraid to change, we are afraid to lose ourselves, and we are even afraid to lose any pleasure in our life.

St John in his First Letter reminds us: *In love there can be no fear, but fear is driven out by perfect love: because to fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love (1Jn 4:18)*

The children of Fatima were comforted by Mary saying, “I have come from heaven.” Hopefully, we are comforted as well, since that, after all, is where we hope to live in love for ever, free from all fear.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!  
**(Father James M. Sullivan OP)**

**Marian Feasts in May** – Our Lady of Fatima – 13<sup>th</sup>, Our Lady Help of Christians – 24<sup>th</sup>,  
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 31<sup>st</sup>.

**We pray for** the recently deceased **Sophie Van Der Voorn** and those who anniversaries are about now: **Eileen Daumann, Frances Cosgrove, Tui Ruffell, Joan Ryan, Winifred Byers and Michael O'Connor.**

**Welcome** – We welcome Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai to our Pastoral area. With God's Grace and the loving, prayerful and practical support of us all, we trust that his time amongst us will be blest. Fr Jacob looks forward to meeting and getting to know us all over the coming months. We welcome his plans for visitation. If you would like to contact Fr regarding any matter, he is happy to be called or emailed – 022 678 4328 or 03 417 8603 [pillaitheva@yahoo.com](mailto:pillaitheva@yahoo.com)

### **Dunedin Diocese 2022 Priestly Jubilees**

The Priests of the Diocese gathered in Invercargill on Monday to celebrate with Mass and a social gathering for those who have significant Anniversaries of their Priesthood throughout 2022. This year commemorated the following jubilees: Fr Tom Keyes 70 years, Fr Tony Harrison 50 years, Fr Michael Hishon 25 years. Please remember our 2022 Jubilarians in your prayers.

### **World-wide Synod 2021,2022,2023 – Pope Francis would love to hear from you...**

If you haven't already taken part in the survey on-line at [cdd.org.nz](http://cdd.org.nz) regarding this process of reflection for the Universal Church, please be responsive to a request you may receive within your parish to chat with others over the 10 given questions; in twos or three's, over a meal or cup of tea, amongst your social group or family. The discussion the questions raise will be enlightening. *"...the purpose of this Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission"* (Synod Preparatory Document)

**Orange Traffic Light Setting** – Public Health South & Southern DHB still advises us to use good quality masks throughout our Church Services and also provide good ventilation where practical. Hopefully as numbers of infection reduce in our region this will only be for a further short period of time. Let us continue working to keep each other safe.

### **A Prayer for Peace**

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace.

In You alone is found freedom.

Please free our world from conflict.

Bring unity to troubled nations.

Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

Dispel all darkness and evil.

Protect the dignity of every human life.

Replace hatred with Your love.

Give wisdom to world leaders.

Free them from selfish ambition.

Eliminate all violence and war.

Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel,

Every angel and saint: Please pray for peace.

Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people.

Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering.

Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need.

Pray for us all.

Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, hear our prayers.

Jesus, I trust in You! Amen.