

SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA
Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence Bulletin
14 May 2023

Pastoral Area Assistant:
Stephanie Swann – 03 485 9996

Parish Priest – Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai – 03 417 8603

Email: catholicchurchclutha@gmail.com Website: www.balcluthacatholicparish.org

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year A

14th May – 6th Sunday of Easter – Acts 8:5-8.14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21

21 May – The Ascension of the Lord – Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20

28th May – Pentecost Sunday – Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7.12-13, John 20:19-23

4th June – The Most Holy Trinity – Exodus 34:4-6.8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18

We pray for: those recently deceased, **Paulina Fruean-Taavili and Fr Tom Keyes** and those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Eileen Daumann, Michael O'Connor, Winifred Byers, Frances Cosgrove, Tui Ruffell, Joan Ryan, Sophie van der Vorn, Linda Fraser.**



Permanent Diaconate

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 that was read last Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Easter, the biblical origins of the ministry of the role of Deacon are expressed. In our Church there are two types of Deacons; Transitional and Permanent.

In 1967 Pope Paul VI renewed our understanding of the ordained Ministry in his Apostolic letter 'Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem'. This letter affirms both the Transitional Deacon who awaits further ordination to the Priesthood and the Permanent Deacon who will remain so for as long as they live.

The Ministry of the Permanent Deacon will include assistance to the Priestly Ministry of the Parish Priest and as well, as indicated in the Acts of the Apostles, social care for those who are in need. This Ministry usually includes conducting weddings, baptisms, visitation to those who are sick and homebound and funeral services, burials and preaching.

In the USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Haiti, Central & South America, Europe, Australia, the Caribbean and more recently in New Zealand, the Ministry of the Permanent Deacon has been received. In New Zealand this has been so in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North and Wellington. On the 20th May, for the first time in our Diocese, Iosefa will be ordained to the Diaconate and Fania will celebrate this. The Permanent Diaconate will be received by this couple.

Fania and Iosefa, have participated in a three-and-a-half-year formation programme. They have done so together with their children. This has involved tutorials with Fr Mark Chamberlain in Dunedin, assigned reading and written reflections, practicums in preaching and presiding, being grounded in Spiritual Direction including an Ignatian 8-day retreat. As a couple together with their children they have over these years travelled to Dunedin on Saturdays to meet with Fr Mark for their tutorials. Throughout, ongoing discernment has taken place.

Within our Pastoral Area Iosefa's Ministry will include his support of the Priestly Ministry of our Parish Priest, Fr Jacob. This may include, proclamation of the Gospel, preaching from time to time, celebrating baptisms, conducting weddings, funeral services and Christian burials. This will always be discussed and agreed with by Fr Jacob, our Parish Priest. More significantly, this Diaconal Ministry is always essentially one of service.