

# SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA

## Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence

Bulletin 5 May 2024

**Parish Priest – Fr Jacob**

**Thevasahayampillai**

**03 417 8603 022 678 4328**

Website:

[www.balcluthacatholicparish.org](http://www.balcluthacatholicparish.org)

Email address:

[catholicchurchclutha@gmail.com](mailto:catholicchurchclutha@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Area Assistant:**

Stephanie Swann – 03 485 9996

**Reverend Deacon:**

Iosefa Setu – 027 280 8772

**Parish Council Contacts:**

**Balclutha** – Pauline Dodds:

418 1230

Stephanie Bowden, Secretary:

021 238 6668

**Milton** – Peter Mallon:

417 8181

**Lawrence** – Geoffrey Blackmore:

485 9503

**Mass Times:**

**Lawrence** – 4.30pm Saturday

**Lawrence** – 4pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 11am

**Milton** – 9am Sunday

**Milton** – 9am Saturday

**Balclutha** – 10.30am Sunday

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 5.30pm Saturday

**Balclutha** – 10am Tuesday,

Thursday & Friday

**Reconciliation:**

On request, or

Balclutha prior to 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

Mass, Saturday @ 5pm

Milton after 9am Mass Saturdays

Lawrence prior to Saturday Mass

## The ASCENSION

Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis

(Brother Simeon: Cistercian monk of Spencer, MA)



The Ascension contains the great mystery of why Jesus must visibly leave his disciples, thus creating a physical void in their midst. What they most greatly love – their Risen Master – can no longer be seen, heard, or touched.

Before departing “to Heaven” (the place from which power will come), he blesses them with the hands that show the wounds of the cross. As blood had poured out of them forty days before, now light and blessing pour from them as Jesus’ final, visible deed on this earth. This even marks a major turning point in the story of Jesus’ relationship with mankind, because this blessing is as if Jesus were saying to them: “I leave for heaven so that your own hands may now become my hands, your deeds my deeds, your heart my heart.” How else can we explain their great joy in returning to Jerusalem?

The promise of the Holy Spirit and the blessing by Jesus’ hands have communicated the certainty to them that, even in leaving them visibly, he is not abandoning them but rather making room interiorly for them to be what they have seen him to be – by now having the same Father as he and the same Spirit animating their lives. They must now themselves *become* what they have learned to admire and love.

In other words, Jesus now ceases to be but one person in one physical body among many in the world so that the Church corporately and in every individual member can become the presence of his Body on earth. Jesus disappears as single individual in order to fill the whole world with his presence.

From now on, those who want to see Jesus, the Messiah, will have to look to the Church and her members – for better or for worse.



## SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year B

5<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48, Letter of 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-

12<sup>th</sup> May – The Ascension – Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Mark 16:15-20

19<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost – Acts 2:1-11, Galatians 5:16-25, John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

26<sup>th</sup> May – The Most Holy Trinity – Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20

2<sup>nd</sup> June – 6<sup>th</sup> The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ – Exodus 24:3-8, Hebrews 9:11-15, Mark 14:12-16,22-26

**We pray for:** those recently deceased, 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.**



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour** – concluding with Benediction, will be observed in St Mary MacKillop Church, Balclutha, First Friday of the month. **This month 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 6.00-7.00pm**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – there will be **NO** Service of the Word with Holy Communion in Balclutha, on First Sunday **this** month. Mass is a Vigil held on the Saturday evening, at 5.30pm. **This will continue as usual.** On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May there will be a **2.00pm Mass** in the Samoan language. All are welcome at any of these celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – The Couples for Christ Programme has been running in Balclutha over the last few months. It concludes with a Graduation Ceremony. This will take place in the **Mary MacKillop Centre from 2.00-6.00pm.** All are welcome to attend and support those who have taken part.

Your personal invitation to our **Reflection, Praise and Worship Day...**

You are warmly invited to come and join us on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** at St Patrick's Basilica, Mercy Parish, 40 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin for a day of reflection, praise and worship.

**Commencing at 10.00am and closing around 3.00pm.** Please bring a plate for a shared lunch. Tea and coffee provided. A love offering will be taken up.

This day is arranged by Current of Grace, Dunedin in association with Charis NZ Leadership and Worship Teams, who will be present at our day. For more details, contact Kathy Mayo 034737115

**Santacruzán 2024 – Flores de Mayo** – Flowers of May Celebration of the Virgin Mary.



The Santacruzán was first held in the 1800s at Malolos, Bulacan in the Philippines. It is a religious procession commemorating the quest of Queen Helena of Constantinople and her son, Constantine the Great, to find the True Cross: the cross that is said to be the one upon which Jesus was crucified. It has since

become part of Filipino tradition focused on youth and their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

You are all warmly welcome to attend this Clutha Catholic Filipino Community event **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

**7.00pm Holy Mass** (St Mary MacKillop Church) - Celebrants Fr Elie and Fr Jacob

**Fiesta after Mass** (Mary MacKillop Centre). Please bring food and drinks to share.



**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>.



## MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY

One of the problems that many people have with Mary is that they try to put themselves back 2,000 years and imitate this person. Pope Paul VI warns us against this.

The culture and life-style that Mary lived no longer exists to any degree, so it's not possible to imitate that. The challenge for us is not so much a question of our moving back 2,000 years, but rather of bringing Mary forward to our own day and trying to absorb her attitude of mind.

“Let us imitate our mother: she did not have people speak of her; the Gospel only named her four times and yet what good she did! And for us, let us have her spirit, let us do good as if hidden and unknown in the world.”

The first word Mary uttered was “YES” to God as He revealed that she was to be the mother of our Saviour.

In the Old Testament, God gave ten commandments to His people. In the New Testament, Christ reduced these ten to two: “Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself.” Even those two seem too hard for many of us.

Mary has reduced these two to one command: “Do whatever He tells you.” (John 2:5) This is why Mary is such a model for the Christian life.

(Fr Colin SM)

In preparation for the Pope's pronounced Jubilee Year of 2025, we pray.  
Here is the official Jubilee prayer written by Pope Francis:

### The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen. (Papa Francesco)

[Reminder](#) that all are welcome to join with Bishop Michael and the Diocesan Priests for a Mass of celebration for those Clergy celebrating significant milestones during the year, on [Monday 6th May at 10.30am](#) at the Cathedral of St Joseph's, Dunedin. Fr Jacob celebrates 40 years as a Priest in August this year.

**Remember to support our Food Basket collection – especially the First Sunday of the Month**