

# SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA

## Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence

### Bulletin 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 Themes for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Parish Priest – Fr Jacob**

**Thevasahayampillai**

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**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** – 5.30pm Saturday

**Lawrence** – 4pm 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 readings for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A are a call to humility and holiness. The first reading demands that we listen to God and love one another. The psalm reminds us to find our peace and rest in God. The second reading tells us that we work to proclaim the Good News. And in the gospel, Jesus calls out those who lay heavy laws on others but do not practice what they preach.

- **Practice vs. Preach:** Jesus criticizes the religious leaders for not practicing what they preach. This theme highlights the importance of congruency between one's words and actions in religious life.
- **Heavy Burdens:** The religious authorities are blamed for laying heavy burdens on others while not lifting a finger themselves. This theme centres on the unjust imposition of religious obligations without personal commitment.
- **Humility over Titles:** Jesus advises against using honorific titles like "Rabbi" and emphasizes the value of humility. This theme promotes a down-to-earth approach over seeking social or religious status.

**Seeking recognition rather than service:** The funeral of the Austrian emperors used to take place in the Cathedral of St. Steven in Vienna. But before the body of the deceased emperor was allowed to enter the cathedral for his funeral there was one ritual that had to take place. As the official in charge approached the gates of the cathedral, he would find them locked. Then the official was obliged to knock at the door to gain entrance. Upon hearing the knock on the door, a priest asks from inside the church, "Who is it that desires entrance here?" "His apostolic majesty, the emperor!" calls the official. "I don't know him." answers the priest. A second knock follows and a similar question is asked. This time the official announces: "The highest emperor". Again, "I don't know him" comes out through the locked door. Finally, a third knock is heard. "Who is it?" asks the priest. This time the official answers: "A poor sinner, your brother, requests admittance!" "Permission is granted: enter sinner. You are known to us." Then the door is opened, and the royal funeral takes place.

#### SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year A

**5<sup>th</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time** – Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10, Thessalonians 2:7-9.13, Matthew 23:1-12

**12<sup>th</sup> November – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time** – Wisdom 6:12-16, Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

**19<sup>th</sup> November – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time** – Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31, Thess. 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30

**26<sup>th</sup> November – Feast of Christ the King** – Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28, Matthew 25:31-46

**3<sup>rd</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B** – Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1.3-8, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

**We pray** for the recently deceased, **Maurice Ryan** and those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Margaret McKinnel, Jack Mears, Jack Ford, Tina Bouman, Janny Tamils, Edgardo Garcia.**

## DUNEDIN DIOCESE SYNOD HUI 2023

Saturday 18th November, 10am-2:30pm  
Mercy Chapel - 32 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin  
(Behind St Patrick's Basilica)



You are invited to our Diocesan Wide Synod Hui where we will hear from Dr. Therese Lautua, a theologian from Auckland who was on the writing group for the Oceania Synod document. Therese will speak about the Synod within the context of Aotearoa, NZ. The draft Diocesan Strategic Plan will also be presented and discussed in a synodal way with spiritual conversations. Nau mai, haere mai.

**REGISTER HERE:**  
[www.cdd.nz](http://www.cdd.nz)

## 2023 Dunedin Diocese Synod Hui

You are invited to our Diocesan Wide Synod Hui where we will hear from Dr. Therese Lautua, a theologian from Auckland who was on the writing group for the Oceania Synod document. Therese will speak about the Synod within the context of Aotearoa, NZ. The draft Diocesan Strategic Plan will also be presented and discussed in a synodal way with spiritual conversations.

**Date: 18th November 2023**

**Time: 10am-2:30pm**

**Venue: Mercy Chapel**

**32 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin (Behind St Patrick's Basilica)**

**Cost: Free**

**Please register by 13th November**

**Contact: [amya@cdd.org.nz](mailto:amya@cdd.org.nz) or (03) 474-5755**

## Catholic Social Services – Dunedin

Catholic Social Services is an agency of the Catholic Diocese of Dunedin that has a mission that is to care for, empower, and connect individuals, whanau and communities. We do this through social services such as counselling, social work, parenting & tenancy support and supervised contact. The agency has about 23 staff and a number of volunteers. Our current director Mike Tonks is shortly retiring after eight years in the role, and we are looking for a General Manager who can continue to lead this agency forward. We are looking for someone who has proven leadership/management experience in a similar or related organization in the community services sector.

The Position Description is available from Pauline Lee [paulinel@cdd.org.nz](mailto:paulinel@cdd.org.nz) Please upload your application via

Seek with a 2-3-page CV and a brief cover letter. Applications close Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November



**Timetable Changes:** 'Summer time' Vigil Mass in Lawrence – Saturdays at **5.30pm**  
'Summer time' – Filipino Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Month in Balclutha – **7.00pm**

## Renovations at Last

As some of you will have noticed, the work is now underway on the renovation of the Mary MacKillop Parish Centre in Balclutha. We are all very excited to see this long-awaited project on the move.

The Parish has budgeted for the project, however as you would expect, this is a significant investment which will reduce our cash reserves.

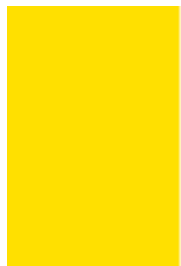
As part of the new kitchen, we will be installing two new ovens, a dishwasher, a new fridge, microwave and possibly investing in some new cutlery and crockery so that the space is attractive for future use.



The Parish Finance Committee would like to offer the opportunity for Parishioners to consider a donation towards the purchase of the new whiteware.

There are many families in our community already making significant contributions to the Parish, and therefore we stress that no one should feel under any obligation or pressure to donate if it will adversely affect the household.

All donations would be tax deductible. Thank you for your consideration. Tracey (Treasurer).



**OUR PAPAL NUNCIO** His Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, the Pope's representative in Oceania has just suffered a serious stroke at his residence in Wellington. We ask that you pray for him in his recovery so that he will be able to return home soon to his family in Tanzania. Please also pray for Fr Giouse his secretary and now acting Nuncio. Archbishop Rugambwa was due to visit Dunedin on **Sunday 19 November** to preside at the **10.30am Mass, in St Joseph's Cathedral.**

Everyone is still welcome to attend as on this occasion there will be a reinstatement of the restored sanctuary angels and the Blessed Sacrament to the nave of the Cathedral.

**New Bishop for Hamilton Diocese** – Pope Francis has recently appointed Fr Richard Laurenson from the Diocese of Hamilton as the new Catholic Bishop of Hamilton. It means all six New Zealand dioceses now have a bishop, following the recent ordination and installation of Bishop John Adams as Bishop of Palmerston North. Currently the parish priest at All Saints by the Sea, Papamoa Coast, Bishop-elect Laurenson was born in Hamilton in 1968. He was ordained as a Hamilton diocesan priest in 1995 and has since served as parish priest in many parts of the diocese, including St Joseph, Waihi; Immaculate Conception, Taumarunui; St Joseph, Fairfield and St Peter Chanel, Te Rapa; and Holy Cross, Hamilton North. Bishop-elect Laurenson attended Holy Cross Seminary in Mosgiel. He has a Baccalaureate in Theology from Otago University (1992) and studied for and obtained a Licentiate in Canon Law from Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome from 2007 to 2010. He is also currently diocesan Chancellor, Vicar for Marriage, a member of the College of Consultors and, since 2019, Defender of the Bond at the Tribunal of the Catholic Church in New Zealand. As a military chaplain for a decade, he served for a time with peacekeeping forces in Bougainville and Timor Leste. Bishop-elect Laurenson is expected to be ordained on Friday 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at a time still to be determined. Please pray for him and all our Bishops.





## Christmas Tree Extravaganza 2023

The Combined Churches are once again giving you or your group, the opportunity to decorate a provided tree for display, the community's enjoyment and judging, at the end of this month/beginning of December. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year of this event being organized for the benefit of different Clutha Charities. The trees will be displayed at the Presbyterian Church Hall, 72 Clyde Street, with entry to view by gold coin or food item.

**29<sup>th</sup> Nov – 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 12 noon – 6pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – 10am – 1pm**

If you would like to register to decorate a tree, please contact Jessica at [clutha.cccte@gmail.com](mailto:clutha.cccte@gmail.com) Help is required at the venue setting up the trees at 6pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov and taking them down at 1pm Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Also, if you could give a couple of hours throughout the times the trees are open to the public as a greeter, please let Stephanie know: 021 238 6668. A lovely way to meet the public and spread some early Christmas joy!



## Vatican announces motto of Jubilee Year 2025: 'Pilgrims of Hope'



Following the extraordinary 2015 Holy Year of Mercy instigated by Pope Francis, the forthcoming Jubilee will take place in line with the norm of leaving a 25-year gap between each one. The most recent ordinary jubilee took place in the year 2000, as the world and the Catholic Church prepared to enter the new millennium.

The Jubilee Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence. Traditionally, it begins just before Christmas and ends on the Epiphany of the following year.

The Pope inaugurates the Holy Year with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. After that, the Holy Doors of the other papal basilicas – St John Lateran, St Paul Outside the Walls, and St Mary Major – are opened and remain so until the end of the Jubilee Year.

## Caritas Comment - Parihaka Day, Sunday 5 November

A day to reflect on the non-violent legacy of Parihaka, Taranaki. Parihaka Day commemorates the 1881 invasion of the settlement of Parihaka and the non-violent resistance undertaken, by the people of Parihaka, under the leadership of Tohu Kākahi and Te Whiti o Rongomai, when faced with confiscation of their land. "Parihaka today continues ... to draw on the legacy of Tohu and Te Whiti to discuss and consider how to respond to injustice".

<https://www.caritas.org.nz/tangata-whenua/parihaka>

**Please keep major conflicts around the world today in your prayers.**



"I'm here to hook up your phone" The boss was in his new office. An employee walked in. The boss picked up the phone and started an imaginary conversation flattering himself. He signalled the worker he'd be with him shortly. The employee said, "Take your time, boss. I'm here to hook up your phone." — "A proud heart," wrote Ben Franklin, "is like a crooked fence."