

SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA

Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence

Bulletin 1st October 2023



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Mass Times:

Lawrence – 4.30pm Saturday

Lawrence – 4pm Wednesday

1st Sunday – 11am

Milton – 9am Sunday

Milton – 9am Saturday

Balclutha – 10.30am Sunday

1st Sunday – 5.30pm Saturday

Balclutha – 10am Tuesday,

Thursday & Friday

Reconciliation:

On request, or

Balclutha prior to 1st Sunday

Mass, Saturday @ 5pm

Milton after 9am Mass Saturdays

Lawrence prior to Saturday Mass

Gospel reflection this week

26th Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 21:28-32

The Gospel story shows us the nobility of a humble change of mind. The first son “thought the better of it.” He was open to change, to better thoughts. The second son was set and closed. The ability to change one’s mind is essential to all healthy relationships. A mind that is closed, whether from pride, stubbornness or stupidity, tends to destroy all relationships—e.g., when we refuse to admit a mistake, when we are unwilling to apologize and change our ways, when we persist in prejudice against a person or group, when we think we know it all. Apparent outsiders may be closer to God than their supposed betters. Social or religious standing means little in the sight of God. The dictum “actions speak louder than words” is fleshed out in the parable of the two sons, neither of whom does what he says he will do. Doing good actions is better than speaking fine words **“Tomorrow, I will fly south.”** The great Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, once told a story of a flock of geese that was starting to head south to escape the blast of wintry winds. The first night they landed in a farmer’s yard and filled themselves with corn. Next morning, they flew on. All, that is, except one. “The corn is good,” this big goose said, “so I will stay and enjoy it another day.” The next morning, he decided to wait still another day, and another after that, enjoying the delicious food. Pretty soon he had developed a habit. “Tomorrow I will fly south,” he said. Then came the inevitable day when the winds of winter were so severe that waiting longer would mean death in the frozen wastes. So, he stretched his wings and waddled across the barnyard, picking up speed as he went. But alas! He was too fat to fly. He had waited too long. — The lazy goose represents the second son in Jesus’ parable

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year A

1st October – 26th Sunday Ordinary Time – Ezekiel 18:25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-23

8th October – 27th Sunday Ordinary Time – Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43

15th October – 28th Sunday Ordinary Time – Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14

22nd October – 29th Sunday Ordinary Time, Mission Sunday - Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21

29th October – 30th Sunday Ordinary Time - Exodus 22:20-26, Thessalonians 1:5-10, Matthew 22:34-40

5th November – 31st Sunday Ordinary Time – Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10, Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13, Matthew 23:1-12

We pray for the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Peter Dickson and Ted Ruffell

Service of the Word with Holy Communion – In Balclutha, First Sunday of the month Mass is a Vigil held on the Saturday evening, at 5.30pm. **This will continue.**

For those parishioners who are working and unable to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Deacon Iosefa will lead a Service of the Word with Holy Communion in Balclutha on the First Sunday at 10.30am.

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 6th October from 6.00-7.00pm**

Monthly Mass - **This month 13th October.** Please join Fr Elie Sangco from the Gore Parish for Mass the second Friday evening of each month at the St Mary MacKillop Church at **6.30pm.** A chance for all the Filipino community specially, to gather for Mass. The shared meal afterwards will be in the St Virgilius Chapel in the St Mary MacKillop Church until further notice due to the other room's renovations. All are welcome.

13th September - A meeting was held in Lawrence with representatives from all the Pastoral Area Parish Councils. Discussion was varied, with a positive conversation around investigating a refreshing/make-over/'healthy home' standardising for the Priest's Presbytery in Milton. Also, a 'Day of Spiritual Reflection' held in the New Year/Lent is to be looked in to, with leadership and guidance from the Diocesan Pastoral Office. Watch this space...

The National Assembly of Diocesan Priests is being held in Rotorua from 8-13 October. Archbishop of Brisbane Mark Coleridge will be one of the speakers at the week-long assembly of 170 Catholic priests. The incoming Bishop of Palmerston North, Bishop-elect John Adams, will also speak at the assembly. His ordination on 30 September is shortly beforehand. Other speakers include Auckland theologian Dr Therese Lautua and Wellington Archdiocese pastoral ministry adviser Lucienne Hensel, whose topic is "Being called forth in Synodality." Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, will talk about the reimagining of the CEC currently taking place under her leadership. James van Schie, General Manager of the Auckland Diocese, and his wife Hannah will talk about their faith practice and life as a Catholic couple... **Please pray for our Priests during this time of spiritual renewal, learning and friendship.**

October 22, 2023 - Mission Sunday. Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday 2023, reflects on the theme "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," based on the story of the disciples who encounter Jesus on their way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35).

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Laugh: A Minister recently quit the ministry after more than 20 years of faithful, dedicated service and became a funeral director. When asked why he had changed vocations, he said: "I spent 10 years trying to straighten out John and he's still an alcoholic. Then I spent three and one-half years trying to straighten out Harold and Susan's marriage problems and they ended up getting a divorce. Later I tried for two years to help Bob kick his drug habit and he is still an addict. Now, at the funeral home, when I straighten them out, they stay straight! Perfect obedience!"



What you need to know about the Synod on Synodality. October 4-28

What does synodality mean? Pope Francis has said that he envisions the Synod on Synodality as “a journey in accordance with the Spirit, not a parliament for demanding rights and claiming needs in accordance with the agenda of the world, nor an occasion for following wherever the wind is blowing, but the opportunity to be docile to the breath of the Holy Spirit.”

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What are some of the topics that could be addressed in the synod assembly?

The *Instrumentum Laboris* document guiding the discussions at the October synod assembly suggests discernment on questions regarding some hot-button topics, including women deacons, priestly celibacy, and LGBTQ outreach. The document also highlights a desire for new institutional bodies to allow for greater participation in decision-making by the “people of God.” One of the proposed questions for discernment for the synod of bishops asks: “What can we learn about the exercise of authority and responsibility from other Churches and ecclesial communities?” **How does the Synod on Synodality differ from past synods of bishops?** A synod is a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance in order to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope. For the first time, the Synod of Bishops in 2023 will include voting delegates who are not bishops. Nearly a third of the 364 voting delegates were chosen directly by the pope, including laypeople, priests, assembly will be held in the Paul VI Hall, instead of the Vatican’s New Synod Hall, with delegates sitting at round tables of about 10 people each. The latter part of the October gathering will focus on deciding the Church’s next steps and “the necessary in-depth theological and canonical studies in preparation” for a second assembly in October 2024.

The NZ Catholic Bishops have published their **2023 Election Statement**, which urges the politicians elected on 14 October to focus on issues that matter to the people of the nation rather than the trivia and scandals that dominate public debate. The NZCBC election statement can be read on their website: www.catholic.org.nz/ There is also a printed copy in your Church foyer.

Bishops’ Prayer for Election 2023

God of nations, bless our nation as we approach our election in these uncertain times. As we discern our choices guide us with your Spirit.

Grant us humble parliamentarians of integrity who seek to serve for the common good.

I Ihowa Atua, unite our nation in the desire to protect the sanctity and dignity of every human life in all its stages.

Help us recognize our families as a treasure and enable us to support those families that struggle.

Make us mindful of those in need in our communities and ready to work together for a just community.

May we always delight in the beauty of your creation and ensure this beauty is enshrined for our children’s children.

We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



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'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' Matt 28:19-20

And so ends the Gospel of St Matthew. And the beginning of our own discipleship...

'Divine Renovation' is the title of a book by Canadian Priest Fr James Mallon, published in 2014. Divine Renovation has become a movement around the world; the role of which is to aid in the transformation of parishes from Maintenance to Mission. Fr James suggests that the three keys to Parish Renewal are

- The Power of the Holy Spirit
- The Primacy of Evangelization
- The Best of Leadership



When a Parish is fully engaged with all its members; 'together we can bring hope to Priests, life to parishes and people to Jesus.' In this way we are all renovated.

Our homes, our wardrobes, our gardens are all spaces that are refreshed and renewed and maintained on a sensibly regular basis, so too surely should our personal faith and our community of faith. Renovation in this sense is not bricks and buildings (though of course important to maintain), but our relationship with Jesus personally and in the sharing of that gift of faith with others.

The Divine Renovation movement suggests that the best tool for beginning this process is the Alpha Course. Alpha was begun across the world in 1993 and since then 29 million people have taken part. The Catholic Alpha Course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening, low key way. A meal begins the session which allows people to get to know one another. During the sessions there are opportunities to listen, learn, discuss and discover aspects of the Christian Faith. From there an enrichment and growth in parish life is observed and celebrated.

Cheryl Surrey is the Relationship Guide for Divine Renovation in New Zealand. She supports the Priests as they look to encourage and grow their communities. Priests in Auckland, Palmerston North, Taupo, Wellington, Christchurch and now Dunedin are actively engaged in this renovation transformation process. Cheryl spoke at St Peter Chanel Church, Green Island, Dunedin recently and is engaged with them and St Mary's Mosgiel Parish as they begin this journey of renewal.

If you would like to know more www.divinerenovation.org or contact Cheryl directly Cheryl.surrey@divinerenovation.org

October - the month of the Holy Rosary. *"To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and his Mother. The Rosary does indeed 'mark the rhythm of human life,' bringing it into harmony with the 'rhythm' of God's own life, in the joyful communion of the Holy Trinity, our life's destiny and deepest longing. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."* St John Paul 2
At Family Life Catholic Gifts, we would like to celebrate this wonderful and necessary devotion, with a great sale - 20% OFF ALL ROSARIES. Our Rosaries are brought in from various countries including Italy, Portugal, Brazil and the United Kingdom.



The sale will run from 1st October to 14th October, which encompasses two Marian feast days of the Holy Rosary, October 7th and the 106th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima on October 13th. Visit us at our shop - 569 Richardson Road, Mount Roskill, Auckland or online at catholicgifts.co.nz. Proceeds from shop sales support the very important work of Family Life International in promoting Life, Faith and Family.