

SOUTH OTAGO PASTORAL AREA
Parishes of Balclutha, Milton and Lawrence
Bulletin – 4 September 2022

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Parish Council Contacts:

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Weekend Masses:

Lawrence – 5.30pm Saturday
1st Sunday – 11am

Milton – 9am Sunday
Saturday

Balclutha – 10.30am Sunday
1st Sunday – 5.30pm Vigil

Weekday Masses:

Lawrence – 4pm Wednesday

Milton – 9am

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

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE COMING MONTH – Year C

4th September – 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time – Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10.12-17, Luke 14:25-33

11th September – 24th Sunday Ordinary Time – Exodus 32:7-11.13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32

18th September – 25th Sunday Ordinary Time – Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13

25th September – 26th Sunday Ordinary Time – Amos 6:1.4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31

1st October – 27th Sunday Ordinary Time – Habakkuk 1:2-3;2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8.13-14, Luke 17:5-19

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels **29th September**

All three of the archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael appear in the Scriptures.

The Book of Revelation describes Michael as the leader of the forces of heaven in their triumph over the forces of Satan.

Gabriel was the angel who appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of St John the Baptist and who appeared to Mary to announce that she would bear a Son who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Raphael appears in the Book of Tobit; he was sent by God to help the elderly Tobit, and his son Tobias and Sarah, Tobias' wife.

In all these cases these archangels work to bring God's good purposes for humanity to pass. The one who uniquely worked to bring to pass God's good purposes for humanity was, of course, Jesus. In the Feast Day Gospel reading from John, Jesus speaks of himself as the Son of Man on whom the angels of God ascend and descend. If the archangels and angels are God's messengers, Jesus is God's most complete messenger because he is God in human form, the Word made flesh. Later on in John's gospel, Jesus will say to his disciples, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you'. Jesus sends us out as his messengers; we are all called to share in the Lord's work of bringing God's good purposes for humanity to pass. In that sense, the archangels whose feast we celebrate late in September remind us of our own fundamental calling. Fr Martin Hogan – Dublin, Ireland

Through the power of Michael, leader of the heavenly armies in the war against evil: - protect your people, Lord! Through the word of Gabriel, message-bearer of the Gospel: - save your people, Lord! Through the intervention of Raphael, companion and healer: - comfort your people, Lord!

'Angel' means – messenger of God.

Michaelmas Daisy – Aster. This purple daisy is the most popular colour for decoration for the Feast of the Archangels. They bloom in the late Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

We pray for: those recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Patricia Edmonds, Helen Nichol, Tess Morahan, Cath Stevenson, Virgencita Clark, Jack Knight and Jim Edmonds.

Pope Francis' World-wide Synod

Parishes and dioceses around the country took part in the local phase of Pope Francis's synodal path to the Church's future, which will culminate in an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October next year. The NZ bishops have just published the National Synod synthesis document that emerged from the diocesan phase of the process and the national hui held in Wellington in June. The national document has been sent to Rome as one of the many such documents from around the Catholic world as part of the Synod process.

The introduction says of people's responses: "They spoke positively and with love about the place the Church has in their lives. They want the Church to be a life-giving and active presence in the world, an outward-looking servant Church; a welcoming, inclusive and transformative presence for individuals and communities. They see the synodal process itself being as important as the outcome, because in listening to one another the Holy Spirit is present."

"For some people, especially those participating as individuals rather than in groups, the process provided an opportunity to express anger, cynicism, hurt and rejection of the Church due to past experiences. The Church was named as a place of alienation, and irrelevant, especially in its teaching on human sexuality. The responses from those who feel ignored, excluded or who have been deeply hurt made painful reading, but their desire to be part of a welcoming Catholic community was clear. Their responses are valued and we are learning from them."

The New Zealand Document was grouped under the following headings; Inclusion:

Gathering: Leadership: Mission: Education and Formation: Synodality and Change:

In a letter accompanying the national synthesis to Rome, Cardinal John Dew, President of the NZCBC, says: "Many people commented positively on this process and appreciated the opportunity to discern together.

"As one Whakataukāki (Māori proverb) says: Ka totoro atu tōku ringa ki ngā tōpito e whā o te ao, e kore e taea te whakahoki mai. **When my hands stretch out to the four corners of the world, they will not return fruitless.** Te Kooti Rikirangi."

If you would like to read further: The document, a summary of its contents, and an outline of the Synod process, they are online here <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nz-synod-synthesis/>



First Reconciliation – Congratulations to Georgina, Carson and Isaac at St Mary's Milton who made their First Reconciliation this week. We remember in our prayers, the large group of students at St Joseph's and our regional State Schools who are now preparing in Balclutha.

Reconciliation will be held in the **St Mary MacKillop Church Thursday 29th September at 6.30pm.** All are welcome to attend and take part. Fr Jacob will arrange another Priest to assist on this evening.

A Father's Prayer

Dear God, my heavenly Father, thank you for 'my call' to be a father. Thank you for my children, each a precious gift from You. May I be for them the kind of loving Father that You are to me. As You have written my name on Your heart, so too, hold my children near and lavish Your love on them.

Bless too all those fathers who have gone to their rest. May they enjoy the peace that only You can give.

St Joseph, Patron Saint of fathers, pray with us on this special day and always. Amen.