

**Reflection on the Gospel-Pentecost Sunday Year C  
(John 20:19-23)**

**-Veronica Lawson RSM**

Pentecost Sunday is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning ‘fiftieth’) was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the harvesting of the first sheaf. When the Jerusalem temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. The Jews of the first century, including Christian Jews, celebrated the great pilgrimage feast of Pentecost. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God’s new covenant with God’s people.

In today’s first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God’s Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God’s presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God’s Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke’s account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received the Law in their own tongues. In other words, the dispersion and division created by the hubris of those who built the Tower of Babel is symbolically reversed with this outpouring of God’s Spirit.

For the content of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The risen Christ appears to the disciples huddled behind locked doors. He “shows them his hands and his side”. In other words, he provides incontrovertible evidence that he is the crucified one. He offers the simple greeting: “Peace be with you,” the greeting we offer each other at every Eucharistic celebration. The disciples respond with joy. He sends them on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will “retain” or “seize hold of” the sins or transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they “retain”.

To seize hold of evil-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, amnesty only exacerbates the problems. Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance, and of our capacity to deal with or “seize hold of” the sins of the perpetrators of violence and abuse in our Church and in our world. Let us pray that the Spirit will guide us in the way of truth and give us the courage to deal with evil-doing in our midst.

**ST ALIPIUS PARISH—BALLARAT EAST**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY — YEAR C**

*Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity  
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

**St Alipius’ Parish Church**

84 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

**SS Peter & Paul’s Church**

701 Fisken St, BUNINYONG 3357

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**Office Hours:** 9.30am—1.30am Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

**Telephone:** 5332 6611

**Email:** ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Parish Website:** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**SAP Liturgy website:** [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

**CLERGY AND STAFF**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter Sherman

**Parish Coordinator:** Lucy O’Beirne

**Finance Officer:** Kerrie McTigue

**Administrator:** Fr Kevin Maloney VC

**Child Safety Officer:** Roxanne Leed

**Bereavement:** Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

**WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 10th JUNE 2019**

**MONDAY:** No Mass

**TUESDAY:** No Mass

**WEDNESDAY:** 9.30 am Mercy Convent (Victoria St)

11.00 am Funeral St. Alipius’ Church

**THURSDAY:** 9.30 am St. Alipius’ Church

11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)

**FRIDAY:** 9.30 am St. Alipius’ Church

**NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES**

**ST. ALIPIUS** SAT 15th June 6.00 PM

SUN 16th June 9.00 AM

**BUNINYONG** SUN 16th June 10.30 AM

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY — YEAR C**

**READINGS** **First:** Prv 8:22-31

**Second:** Rom 5:1-5

**Gospel:** John 16:12-15

**BAPTISMS:** Harlee Answer, Isaac Jackson

**RECENT DEATHS:** Douglas Brown, Edward Forbes, Patrick Henneghan (Dongara, WA), Antoinette O’Sullivan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Leo Tuddenham, Moira Lund

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Alison Rice, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff, Lena Macklin, Margaret Hanrahan

### COUNTING TEAMS:

**This Week: Team 12:** K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire  
**Next Week: Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 702.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 1085.00
		\$ 2087.00

**PRESBYTERY** \$ 1207.00



### EVENTS

A social afternoon will be held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** in the Mercy Centre commencing at **2.00pm**. Please enter via Gent St. All welcome.

### REFUGEE WEEK JUNE 16—22

#### Asylum Seeker Fundraiser

Nazareth House Hall will be the venue again this year for our Annual luncheon on Wednesday June 19 as we raise funds to assist vulnerable people in our community. Come along and hear our dynamic speakers along with the Nuer dancers and the amazing St. Alipius School children singing. Admission \$20. Starting at 12.30pm with speakers and entertainment commencing at 1pm. Inquiries 0401175045.

#### Welcome Film Festival

As part of Refugee Week 2019, the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council are presenting the Ballarat Refugee Week Film Festival, screening *The Merger* and *Hope Road*. This will be held on Friday 21st June between 6pm and 9.30 pm at Barkly Square, 25-29 Barkly St, Ballarat. At a cost of \$20 General Admission and \$15 Concession, tickets are available through Eventbrite. [ballaratrefugeefilmfest.eventbrite.com.au](http://ballaratrefugeefilmfest.eventbrite.com.au) For more information email [hmcARTHUR@cmY.net.au](mailto:hmcARTHUR@cmY.net.au) or call 5317 7172.

*Other events for Refugee Week include an Ecumenical Service at Cathedral Church of Christ the King, Lydiard St Sth on Thursday 20th June at 5.30 pm and a 3 course Nepalese Banquet to be held at the Ballarat South Community Hub in Tuppen Dr Sebastopol on Saturday June 22nd. More information about all events for Refugee Week is available on the noticeboard.*

### PLENARY COUNCIL – NATIONAL THEMES FOR DISCERNMENT

After 10 months of *Listening and Dialogue* and a period of analysis and prayerful discernment, the National Themes for Discernment for the Plenary Council 2020 are being announced via the website at Pentecost – this weekend. More information on each of the National Themes for Discernment will be available in the coming weeks. Find out more at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

### 2019 AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

The next Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be in Perth from December 8-10, 2019! The Ballarat Diocese is partnering with the Melbourne Office for Youth to offer all-inclusive packages to the festival which will cover transport, accommodation, registration to the festival and meals. The event is for those in Year 9 up to 30 years old and is a great way to partake in celebrating the vitality of the Catholic Church in Australia. Interested parishioners can find more information on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry page of the diocesan website or contact Patrick, ph. 5337 7160.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

**We invite you to be part of our annual Winter Appeal.** This year, to date, the Society has distributed support to the value of \$260,911 across the Ballarat area. This is a weekly average of \$12,600. To date we have received 3,185 calls which gives us a weekly figure of approximately 177 calls. We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish as it enables us to continue our support for those in need. **If anyone is interested in joining our group please contact Helen on ph. 0419 875 349 for information. Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall.** All donations are used in the Ballarat area. Donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible, receipts will be issued.

### CHOIR REHEARSALS

The SAP Community Choir is singing at the Vigil Mass on June 22 so we will be having rehearsals on the next two Tuesday evenings (June 11 & June 18) from 6.30pm - 7.30pm at the St Alipius Church. Please contact David on 0427310564 or email [sapliturgy@gmail.com](mailto:sapliturgy@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance. Looking forward to making great music together! David Santamaria.

### THANK YOU

Many thanks to all the staff and parents of St Alipius, Emmaus and St Francis Xavier for their wonderful, joyous contributions to our Sunday liturgies and preparation of the children as they received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation over the last month. The Parish is enriched with such moments and we look forward to the children attending Mass with their families to receive communion on many weekends throughout the year. It is so important to maintain our spiritual nourishment regularly as we participate in Mass as often as we can.

### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

#### St. John's Primary School Dennington

Centenary celebrations for St John's Primary School Dennington will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2020 beginning with Mass at 10.00am and celebrations to follow. If you have any memorabilia or stories, please contact Sharon Easley by text on 0423 361 914 or email [100years@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au](mailto:100years@sjdennington.catholic.edu.au)

### HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO E-NEWS?

Diocesan e-News is the online newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It is supported by the print publication "Our Diocesan Community" and the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au). e-News is published fortnightly and distributed via email. Subscribe to e-News via the "News and Events" tab on the diocesan website.