

**Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
(Mark 1:14-20)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of the gospel readings for this year are from Mark's story of Jesus. As with any story, it is best to read it from beginning to end, attending to the story line, to indications of place and time, to all the actors or characters in the story, human and other-than-human. While the main character or actor is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups that claim our attention. The "worlds" we encounter include the celestial world, the world of spirits and demons, the human, the animal and the plant worlds. In many ways, we can resonate with the worlds that Mark creates. In other ways, they are alien to 21<sup>st</sup> century scientific sensibilities. We bring our consciousness of these differences to our reading of the text. As we embark on this reading we might also become aware of what we bring to the text, "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties" (GS 1) of our world today. What we bring to the text informs our understanding of the text.

As we read, we might think of this gospel as a two-act drama. The first act in the drama (Mark 1:1-8:26) raises the question, "Who is this?" The central scene (Mark 8:27-30) provides a partial answer: Jesus is the Messiah or God's Anointed One, the Christos. The second act of the drama (Mark 8:31-16:8) is full of surprises for its earliest audiences: Jesus is not a militaristic messiah, but one who is prepared to suffer death for the sake of God's empire; God finally triumphs over suffering and death.

The invitation to us as readers is to enter into the drama, to identify with the characters and character groups, and to hear the teachings of Jesus. In the passage selected for today, Jesus announces his program and invites others to reorient their lives, to expand their horizons and to join him on a mission of proclaiming God's kingdom, God's way of being in the world. Jesus proclaims the advent of God's "time" or *kairos*, as opposed to ordinary clock time (*chronos*). It is crisis time, time to attend to the cries of the earth and the cries of those rendered poor in every age.

One might get the impression that the disciples are all men. We have to go to the end of the gospel to find that there are also women "who came up with him to Jerusalem" from Galilee. The central section of the gospel (Mark 9-10) makes it clear that there are children on the journey as well. So let us imagine a much more extended group around Jesus than today's little gospel reading suggests. Women, men, and children, all are invited to leave behind whatever gets in the way of bringing God's empire into our world.

**3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**



**ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST**

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING  
MONDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2018**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	9.00 AM

**4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

<b>READINGS</b>	First: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
	Second: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
	Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Michael Hanrahan.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Maria Wilson, Noreen Mullane, Aurora Ferrer.

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

**This Week: Team 10:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders

**Next Week: Team 11:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,785.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>685.00</u>
		\$ 2,770.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 658.00



**WELCOME BISHOP PETER**

We welcome Bishop Peter this weekend. Like Jesus in the Gospel, Father Peter has gone to the sea — not to call disciples but to spend some time with family. Thanks Bishop Peter.

**2018 CATHOLIC MISSION DIARIES**

A limited number of diaries are available in the Church Porch this weekend.

**PROCLAIM CONFERENCE 2018—SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Diocesan Foundation has offered sponsorship for six people from the diocese to attend the PROCLAIM 2018 CONFERENCE in Brisbane from July 12-14 ([www.proclaimconference.com.au](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au)). Further information is available on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**DIOCESAN E-NEWS**

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with, or with an interest in the life of the Diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the Diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or you are welcome to submit items for publication to [enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au). News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the Diocese

**THANK YOU—IN GRATITUDE**

**Watering System:** Thanks to the kind parishioner who contributed generously to the watering system for the rose garden along the front fence. The roses have been a beautiful feature of the landscape for many years. Soon a number will need replacing as they are very old and woody. What should we do? Any suggestions, let us know? Thanks also to Margaret for her loving care of the gardens and surrounds.

**Paint Job:** Have you noticed that the former Presbytery/Parish Administration Office has had a face lift? Looks good! Thanks again to the generosity of a kind parishioner for organising and overseeing this work and making it possible—a great gift to us. We are very appreciative.

**BISHOP PAUL'S PARISH VISITATION**

Bishop Paul will be visiting our parish as part of his Diocesan Visitation Programme from March 2nd to 5th which will include visits to the schools of St Alipius, St Francis Xavier, Emmaus and Damascus. He will celebrate the weekend Masses and meet and greet parishioners. More details later.

**PALMS AUSTRALIA**

**Share meals share games, share life stories.**

Have the back-to-work blues got you thinking about your next trip overseas? If so, why not join us on an intimate, authentic tour of **Timor-Leste** this March?

*Palms Encounters* are ethically run group tours that provide participants with authentic, hard to come by experiences. The tours have been carefully designed to give you an insight into the daily life of people of another culture, an understanding of sustainable approaches to reducing poverty, and an insight into the life and work of Palms development volunteers.

**Palms Australia Encounters in 2018:**

11 - 23 March Timor Leste

18 - 30 May Samoa

20 May - 1 June Timor Leste

2 - 14 September Timor Leste

*Limited places* still available on our **March Encounter to Timor Leste!**