

**GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST the KING,
YEAR B
(JOHN 18:33-37)**

The liturgical year always ends with the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King. The gospel reading for Year B is from John's gospel where the notion of God's kingdom or reign or empire features only twice in contrast with its frequent appearance in the other gospels, especially Matthew. For readers in a Western society where democratic rule is valued and promoted, the whole notion of kingship or monarchy poses some difficulty. We need to put the exchange between Jesus and Pilate into the political context of Roman occupied Judaea of the first century.

Rome was the dominant global force at that time. It had the economic and military strength to maintain its power over the whole Mediterranean world. When Jesus tells Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world, he is not pitting planet Earth or the cosmos over against a purely spiritual world. He is referring rather to the world and values of the Roman Empire and the destructive values that are sometimes espoused by his followers.

The term "world" is used in two different senses in John's gospel, both literally and metaphorically. On the other hand, it is the world that came into being through the Word (1:10), the beautiful cosmos or world that "God so loved" (3:16). On the other hand, it is a "world" that rejected the light (1:10-11), a sinful world in need of the saving power of God (3:17).

Jesus, as king, does not claim the sort of over-bearing political, military, or economic power that Pilate exercises on behalf of the Roman emperor. His authority has nothing to do with power over or domination of others. It is grounded in truth (1:17) or, in other words, in the revelation of God. Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life" (14:6) and his mission is to testify to the truth. The path to freedom and life lies in acceptance of the truth (8:32): "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

To celebrate this feast, then, is to move in the direction of peaceful solutions to the conflicts in our world and away from the paths of violence and domination. It is to seek the truth in dialogue and to respond to the plight of those who suffer the pain of hunger, of persecution and of loss. It is to rule as God rules and not as Rome ruled. It is to look again at how we inhabit our world and to change our ways for the sake of truth and life, the present and future life of our beleaguered planet.

BULLETIN for OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST the KING, YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER 2015**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: 11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY: **2.00 pm - ANOINTING MASS**
THURSDAY: 9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY: 9.30 am in Parish Church
SATURDAY: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS SAT 6.00 PM
 SUN 9.00 AM
BUNINYONG SUN 10.30 AM

READINGS - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C
 First: Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Second: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
 Gospel: Luke 21:25-28.34-36

RECENT DEATH: Jim Simpson.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tracey Howard.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 11:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

Next Week: .**Team 12:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 2,298.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debit:	\$ <u>330.00</u>
		\$ 2,928.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 925.00

EVENTS

- **Anointing Mass** will be held on **Wednesday, 25th November** at **2.00 pm**. Following the Mass there will be afternoon tea in the Hall. Donations of food for afternoon tea would be much appreciated. Contact Caring Group members if you need transport.

JUBILEE OF MERCY

Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee - Holy Year of Mercy to Commence on 8th December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, 20th November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to attend the Opening of the Door of Mercy at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, 13th December, 2015, at 10.30 am. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

OLHC CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

OLHC Christmas Day lunch held in OLHC Parish Hall. 482 Gillies St. Wendouree. 12.00 MD - 2.00 pm (meal at 12.30 pm). Transport provided. Bookings by 24th December (add any diets). Phone: 0419 975 914.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our "Restore their hope this Christmas" appeal. Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall. All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms (during 2016). Experience working in an educational setting is preferred. Training held in February 2016. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and an application form.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

Commencing 10.00 am, 26th November in the Meeting Room of St. Alipius Church.

GOSPEL IN THE GARDEN - SAVE THE DATE

2.00 pm, Saturday November 28th, Come and rock with Sweet Mona's Gospel Choir, West Papuan singers, U3A Ukelele players, drummers and others and help raise funds for local asylum seekers and refugees. Stalls and competitions, face painting and fun for all. Afternoon tea. Entry: \$15.00, children free. Enquiries to Carmel Kavanagh: 0401 175 045 or annekav123@yahoo.co.uk
See Notice Board for further information.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

How good it was to see former students from the primary schools in our parish receiving awards for Excellence, Achievements and Leadership. Congratulations and well done.

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME: AN AUSTRALIAN GROUP READING GUIDE TO POPE FRANCIS' LAUDATO SI

Advent Reflection opportunity for all which will include weekly reflection on the Advent Sunday Gospel - Four Wednesdays during Advent, commencing Wednesday, 25th November 5.15 pm—6.15 pm in the smaller of the Cathedral Halls. There will also be an Advent Sunday reflection opportunity that will cover much of the weekly gatherings in an evening session, Sunday, 6th December 6.30 pm—8.30 pm. Please register your interest with Jacinta at the Cathedral Office (10 am—5 pm Monday to Friday, ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5331 2933).

CENTACARE ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

For more information on donating and assisting this Christmas, please contact Centacare Appeal Coordinators, Keryn Monshing, Jenny Grima or Joanne Woodland on 5387 7900 or keryn.monshing@centacareballarat.org.au