

Gospel Reflection

(John 14:15-21)

by Veronica Lawson, RSM

Those who defend themselves in court run the risk of being outsmarted by clever and sometimes unscrupulous adversaries. It is never a good idea to be too self-reliant even in a country with a basically sound legal system such as ours. Today's gospel implies that the disciples need a defense attorney or lawyer. Jesus has acted in that capacity for them in their struggles with the anti-gospel forces arrayed against them. Now he is close to death and he gives them instructions that begin and end with reference to loving him and keeping his commandments. Jesus has given them a new commandment, namely that they love one another: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34). Later in this discourse (15:12-14) the reader of the gospel learns what the actors in the drama already know about Jesus' commandments. "This is my commandment," says Jesus, "that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." This is no small demand, to be prepared to die for one another. Given the opposition they are likely to face, the disciples cannot live out such a commitment on their own. Neither is Jesus leaving them "orphans" who have to fend for themselves. He will ask his "Father" to provide "another" defender or advocate who will act on their behalf, an advocate who will always be there. This new advocate is the "Spirit of truth". As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy thus points us towards Pentecost and the gift of God's Spirit. It is good to know we are never on our own. It is also good to reflect on the capacity we have for love. Many of us will never find ourselves in a situation where our love is tested to the point that we have to die for another. Since the outbreak of the present pandemic, however, we do not have the look far to find countless people doing just that. Health professionals, cleaners, truck drivers, flight attendants, shop assistants, school teachers, lecturers, ordinary people everywhere are laying down their lives for the sake of others. They are truly our friends. The gospel calls us to put the well-being of others, even their survival, before our own comfort. With the life-style changes that will inevitably come sooner rather than later, we may all find ourselves "laying down our lives" in

various ways for the sake of our friends, humankind and other-kind, across the planet. We can, despite opposition, continue to advocate for climate action, for the rights of detainees and prisoners and for those displaced by war or persecution. With the help of the Spirit, our Advocate, we can surely rise to the challenge.



Catholic Diocese of Ballarat | Oblates of St. Joseph



St. Alipius Parish

Ballarat East & Buninyong



SS Peter & Paul's Church
701 Fiskens St
Buninyong



St Alipius' Parish Church
82 Victoria Street,
Ballarat East 3350

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A, 17TH MAY 2020

Parish Office & Presbytery:

✉ 84 Victoria Street
Ballarat East 3350
☎ 5332 6611
✉ ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Liturgy Online:

📱 www.sapliturgy.net.au
✉ sapliturgy@gmail.com

Clergy & Staff:

Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge De Chavez, OSJ
Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria
Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn
Kathy Curran
Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed
Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue
Finance Committee Chair: Paul Jans

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

St Alipius Parish acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Prayer Intentions:

Recent Deaths: John Kennedy, George Mangan
Unwell: We pray for Kateri Byrnes, Carmel Doherty, Heather Healy, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott and all who are unwell

Some Online Mass Options & Resources for Prayer

Ballarat Diocese Mass options:
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website:
www.sapliturgy.net.au

Masses with Bishop Shane Mackinlay:
www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne:
<https://www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

Franciscus



Next week's readings
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (A)
Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20



UPDATES:

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study blocks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. Visit Lay Pastoral Ministry Program on the diocesan website or contact Kim 0407 523 424.

Online Liturgical Inculturation Seminar – Australian Catholic University

Rev. Professor Mark R. Francis CSV will be a guest lecturer of ACU for a new masters-level unit called: THEL620 Special Studies in Theology: Liturgical Inculturation offered as an online intensive on July 6, 7, 9 & 10 and is open to all interested persons. More information here.

COVID 19 Fee Relief for School Families

The Catholic Education Office Ballarat have provided information for families experiencing difficulty paying school fees during the COVID-19 crisis. See the video on their website <https://ceob.edu.au/>

St. Vincent de Paul Society Bread Run at St. Alipius

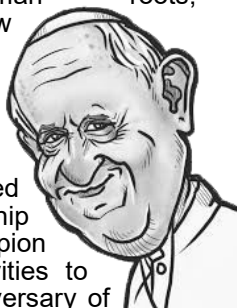
Free fresh bread is available to people on Centrelink benefits and to all experiencing job loss, shorter hours, etc. Pick up on each Monday night between 7.50 pm and 8.20 pm in the parish hall adjacent to the St. Alipius Church. Parking is via Hopetoun Street entrance. Bring your own bags as no bags are supplied. Please pass on this information to any families experiencing difficulties at this time. Queries: please ring Gavin 5334 7221 or Geoff 0413 840 835

St Vincent de Paul Call Centre — 5334 2844 lines open 24/7

Laudato Si' Week – 16-24 May, 2020

"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." – Pope Francis, LS:14

Catholic Earthcare Australia, an ecological agency established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, in partnership with the Diocese of Paramatta, Jesuits Australia and Campion Centre Ignatian Spirituality are coordinating a list of activities to celebrate Laudato Si' week from 16-24 May, the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'. These activities can be found <https://laudatosiweek.org/>



Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

World Communication Day - 2020

This Sunday, 17th May, the Church in Australia will celebrate World Communications Day. It is observed a week earlier in Australia because of our liturgical transfer of the Feast of the Ascension from Thursday to what is elsewhere the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Pope Francis' message for the 54th World Communications Day 2020, which was released in January, focuses on the topic of storytelling. Information can be found on <https://laudatosiweek.org/>.

Week of Prayer and Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 24-31, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Further resources will be added to this page in the coming days.

Keeping In touch

Hello My Dear Parishioners.

Hope all of you are keeping well. Today we read in the gospel Christ is praying for us and we are God's and God is glorified in us.

*With easing up of some restrictions, I am pleased to announce that St. Alipius Church is now open from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm from Tuesday to Sunday for private prayers. **Please be guided accordingly with the Instructions posted at the Door of the Church.***

Let us continue to pray for one another and for our communal celebration to commence soonest when it is safe to do so.

Best Regards, Fr. Jorge, OSJ

Planned Giving Envelopes and Other Offerings

Envelopes may be left in the mailbox at the Presbytery.

Any queries regarding Planned Giving, please contact:

Kerrie McTigue
Parish Finance Officer

☎ 5332 6611

✉ ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Thank You to Those who Contributed to Last Week's Collections

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 585.00

Loose: \$ nil

Direct Debits: \$ 145.00

\$ 730.00

Presbytery: \$ 60.00