

Reflection on the Gospel-12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 4:35-41)

Today's gospel story looks back to the parables that comprise the first part of the chapter and to the crowds that heard these parables: it is the evening of that same day. This story also looks forward as it marks the beginning of the second major section of Mark's gospel (4:35-8:21), a section that seems to be structured around a number of crossings of the lake, or Sea of Galilee. Jesus' decision to move with his disciples out of familiar territory is deliberate: "Let us go across..." The crossing itself is difficult, as is the challenge that confronts them on the other side of the lake. From the disciples' perspective, the seeming indifference of the sleeping Jesus is even more disturbing than the storm that threatens their safe crossing: "Do you not care...?" Jesus demonstrates that he does indeed care. From his perspective, the problem is with the fear in their hearts, a fear that is grounded in their lack of faith: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

In the context of this Markan story, Jesus is like the sower in the parable (4:27-28) who goes to sleep and trusts that the seed will sprout and grow and bear fruit-which it does. Within a first-century Jewish context, Jesus' ability to "rebuke" the storm is a sign of divine power: in the Psalms, for instance, the God of Israel is the one who stills the roaring of the seas (Psalm 65:5) and controls the creatures that inhabit the waters (Psalm 89:9).

Today's first reading has insisted that God commands the sea and all of its moods. God the Birthing Mother presents Job with a series of rhetorical questions, reminding him and us that, while the sea may be threatening, it is God's new born infant, wrapped in God's swaddling clothes of darkness and cloud.

We read Mark's little story against the backdrop of the Hebrew Scriptures. We might also read it in light of contemporary science and so find within it a call to consider how our species respects or fails to respect and to nurture the fruit of God's womb, the cosmos. This story of the storm at sea is not an invitation to be complacent about the extreme weather events on our planet, trusting in God that all will be well. Such terrifying events can derive from the movement of tectonic plates over which we have no control. They can also derive from or be exacerbated by excessive carbon emissions. We pollute the atmosphere and make the seas to rise at our peril. Trust in God may involve relinquishing vested interests and engaging the processes that are designed to reverse the effects of human-induced climate change.

BULLETIN FOR TWELFTH 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 JUNE 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	12.00 noon St Alipius School End-of-Term 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	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

READINGS - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Wisdom 1:13-15.2:23-24
Second:	2 Corinthians 8:7.9.13-15
Gospel:	Mark 5:21-43

RECENT DEATHS: Rosalie Barry.

ANNIVERSARIES: Frank Dodd, Jack Dodd, Pat White, Jannis Stubbings, Nora Roach, Mary Hoy, Richard Roach, Thomas Roach, P. Purcell, Harold Dunham, Kevin Coleman.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Barb Gleeson, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Jean Nolan, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Doreen Forbes, Mona Shillito, Cath Wheelahan.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson.

Next Week: .**Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,698.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,065.00</u>
		\$ 3,063.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,238.00

EVENTS

- Wednesday, 24th June **Social afternoon** in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm
- Wednesdays **Rosary** in the Chapel of Visitation at St John of God Hospital at 12.45 pm. All welcome.
- Wednesday afternoons **Legion of Mary** meets at Nazareth House, Mill St Ballarat, at 1.30 pm. Enquiries: 5332 8624 or 53327227.
- **Legion of Mary Prayers:** Prayers of Petition to Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral from 11.15 am - 11.45 am on 1st & 3rd Thursdays.

MEET MARY DOOGAN

Mary Doogan, a midwife in the UK who was sacked from her job for exercising her conscience, will speak at ACU, Ballarat on Monday, 22nd June at 7.30 pm. See notice board for details.

ORDINATION

Parishioners are invited to attend the ordination to the Priesthood of Francis Denton at St. Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne on Saturday, 27th June 2015 at 10.00 am.

FR BARRY RYAN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Fr Barry Ryan will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination at the St Columba's Parish Church on Sunday, 19th July at the 10.00 am Mass. A morning tea will be held in the St Columba's Parish Hall (Howard Street) following Mass. All are most welcome.

PONCHOS FOR THE HOMELESS

A group of ladies is currently making ponchos for homeless people in the Ballarat area.

They are very keen to receive any used/new pure wool blankets of any size. They are then made into ponchos to distribute to people who need them.

At the moment there is a great demand for these garments for the coming winter.

If you have any spare blankets to give—please contact Ursula Diamond-Keith on 5341 7626 or 0407 717 626.

FOUND

Glasses, with coloured frames, in the church. Contact: 5332 6611.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Parishioners are invited to contribute to our annual Winter Appeal. All donations will be used to enable members of the Society to assist the underprivileged and marginalised people in our community.

SVDP relies on donations, principally via our two annual appeals and proceeds of sales from our Vinnies stores to fund our works.

Our stores are currently in need of:

- Winter clothing
- Books

Donations can be delivered to the stores. Items for the Bridge Mall store can be handed in via the Little Bridge St entrance (ring the bell for access). If you are unable to deliver your items, small parcels can be left at the Piety Stall during June and July.

Members will deliver them to the store.

Special envelopes for cash donations are available at the Piety Stall.

CENTACARE

A list of **Parent Programs** for terms 3 & 4 are available on the Notice Board.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS

Presents Alfred Hitchcock's "The 39 Steps".

This year Damascus College performing arts students are tackling a fast-paced, side-splitting comedy which mixes a juicy spy story with a dash of Monty Python to create a clever whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre!

Performances run from July 22nd to 25th in the Valda Ward Auditorium at Damascus College. Adults \$15, students/children \$10, family of four \$40. Tickets can be purchased online through the Damascus website www.damascus.vic.edu.au