

Gospel Reflection – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 6:1-6)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of us have known the experience of feeling powerless in the face of rejection, especially when it is rejection from those who are closest to us, from those who might normally be expected to understand and affirm us. That seems to have been the experience of the Markan Jesus. Earlier in the gospel (3:20-21) Jesus is misunderstood by his family who, along with the Jerusalem leaders, think he is out of his mind. His family tries to control him, to take hold of him and save him from himself, as well as from what they perceive to be his crazy lifestyle. When they come to take him away, he leaves them outside and continues to teach about a new sort of kinship.

In today's gospel reading (6:1-6), the neighbours and friends of Jesus' family have trouble coping with him. They admit that his teaching demonstrates considerable wisdom. They also acknowledge his extraordinary power as a healer. From their perspective, however, something doesn't add up. After all, he is basically just one of them, "the craftsman".

Jesus' hometown people don't simply puzzle over his extraordinary powers. They are actually "scandalised" by him. He experiences their response as rejection and tells them how he feels. In so doing, he identifies himself with the rejected prophets of old. The townspeople's lack of faith renders the prophet Jesus powerless: he is simply unable to perform any mighty deeds among them. There is a hint in the text, however, that some few do have faith: "he cured a few sick people." He cures these people "by laying his hands on them". We have seen, with the request of the leper (1:41) and the action of the crowds (3:10,) the people's well-founded faith in the healing power of touch, of bodily encounter.

At times, we may be like Jesus, bringing the wisdom and power of God to our families or local communities, only to meet with rejection. Sometimes, we may be like the few who come in faith and experience a healing touch. At other times, we may replicate the behaviour of the opponents of Jesus and discount the achievements of those who excel or whose message challenges us or our lifestyle. To refuse to listen to a prophetic message because the messenger fails to meet our preconceived ideas about prophets may have something to do with a lack of faith. It may actually stymie the power of God. Finally, the emphasis on healing in this reading invites us to pause and consider the intrinsic value of all, human and other-than-human, so often denigrated and devalued by dualistic attitudes that dichotomise the material and the spiritual with dire consequences for the Earth community.

BULLETIN FOR 14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 6th JULY 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am at Mercy Centre
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 - THE 15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Amos 7:12-15
Second:	Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel:	Mark 6:7-13

RECENT DEATHS: John Bourke.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ted Duck, Bill Duck, Eileen Duck, Ray & Kath Novak
Margaret Hanrahan.

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.

Next Week: .**Team 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 2,198.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>800.00</u>
		\$ 3,298.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 661.00

EVENTS

- Wednesday, 8th July **Social afternoon** in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. All welcome.
- Wednesday, 8th July **Lunch time conversation** at Midlands Golf Club from 2.00 noon till 2.00 pm. All welcome.
- 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.

REQUIEM MASS

For Sr Kathleen Mercovich will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church, Ararat, on Monday, 6th July at 5.30 pm. Sr Kathleen spent 5 years based at Ararat working as the Director of Catholic Missions of the Ballarat Diocese. Supper will follow Mass. All welcome.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

Will be taken up this weekend. Through this appeal we have the opportunity to support the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world.

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.

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.

DISASTER RELIEF in NEPAL FUNDRAISER

Loreto College, Ballarat, is holding a fundraiser movie night for disaster relief in Nepal. The movie is "Paper Towns" on Friday, 17th July at 7.00 pm at the Regent Cinemas, Ballarat. Ticket prices are adults \$15.00 and students/children \$10.00. To book contact Catherine Baker on 5329 6137 or online at www.loreto.vic.edu.au/events.

STEWARDSHIP STATEMENTS

The next lot of statements/envelopes for the Stewardship Program are not due to go out until mid September. If you would like your statement for the last financial year please leave your details with the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

"THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E."

See notice board for details of this fundraiser for Mates4Mates. Contact Genevieve Willmott for more information and/or to book.