

Reflection on the Gospel-17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (John 6:1-15)

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

The gospel readings for the next five weeks are taken from John 6, a section of the gospel that focuses on food and related themes: on hungry people; on the need for food/bread; on food/bread as metaphors for life. Bread has been the staple food for millennia in bible lands. To be without bread is to lack the very basics of existence, and that is how it is for so many in our world. Even the impoverished in the so-called “first world” know what it is like to be without the means of subsistence in a world of plenty. The present cycle of readings is confronts us with questions about our own lifestyle, our exploitation of earth’s precious resources, and our capacity to make a positive change in the lives of those whose access to the fruits of our earth is much more limited than ours.

In John’s account of the feeding of the 5000, the crowds keep following Jesus because they see the “signs” he works among the sick. The Johannine Jesus consistently tries to lead the people beyond a form of discipleship that is simply based on seeing the signs that he works. The inadequacy of the crowd’s response on this occasion becomes clear towards the end of the reading.

Both place and time function powerfully in the story. The “mountain” place evokes the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. For the crowds, Jesus is the prophet like Moses who points to a way of satisfying hunger in the wilderness of life. The time is Passover, drawing into the narrative the passing over of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the desert and ultimately of the land where they could worship their God. This story is about the liberation that God brings through the agency of Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates that the answer to the suffering of the people, their liberation, is to be found in their care for each other. If they simply take the time to sit down together, discover the riches in their midst, give thanks, and distribute what they have, they may find they have more than they need. They must gather up the fragments, the “more-than-enough”, so that nothing will be lost and others might benefit from their sharing.

Although the people partially understand Jesus’ identity and teaching, their ultimate response is misdirected, even violent: they want to take him by force and make him king. He leaves them and returns to the mountain alone. We so often seek spectacular solutions to our problems. It may be that we too need to sit down together on the grass, or wherever, and discover the wealth we have at our disposal to satisfy the hunger in our world.

BULLETIN FOR 17th 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

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 27th JULY 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	2.30 pm– Maria Sep funeral
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 - THE 18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Exodus 16:2-4.12-15
Second:	Ephesians 4:17.20-24
Gospel:	John 6:24-35

RECENT DEATH: Ria Sep, Doreen Forbes.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bridie Foran, Laurence Braybrook, Margaret Dunn.

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 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

Next Week: .**Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,339.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit cards:	\$ 8,897.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>590.00</u>
		\$ 11,126.50

PRESBYTERY: \$ 758.00

EVENTS

- 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 5332 7227.
- **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.

KEEP THIS DATE FREE

Friday, 31st August, Fr. Robert McCulloch at Nazareth House. Chapel at 6.00 pm; presentation at 7.00 pm. More details to come.

SUGGESTION

A small group of families and people directly affected by sexual abuse in this parish met recently to discuss how we might mark an admission of the abuse and its effect, and seek to move forward. They suggested that we should consult the parish and ask for ideas. You are invited to make your suggestions via the **suggestion box** at the entrance to St. Alipius church, or by email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

CENTACARE

Brochures, detailing programs for Terms 3 & 4, are available in the church foyer.

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 July. Members will deliver them to the store.

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

MERCY SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES

Come along and have a lovely social afternoon on Friday, 31st July from 1.30 pm—4.00 pm at the Mercy Centre, Ballarat East (enter through Gent Street). Entrance cost is \$5.00 which includes afternoon tea and a ticket in the entrance prize. Raffle and a Spinning wheel. Money raised will support Mercy Works. Contact Ursula at gudiamond-keith@live.com or phone 0407 717 626 or 5341 7626, or Helen on 0419 875 349.

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.

R.C.I.A. - RITE OF INITIATION OF ADULTS

The R.C.I.A. is a process which begins when people who are interested in becoming Catholic come together with members of the R.C.I.A. team to discuss the personal experiences that have drawn them to question and discover more about the Catholic faith. Those who choose to explore and seek full intuition into the Catholic Church continue through the process of *Enquiry* to the *Catechuminate* and then onto full membership into the Catholic Church. Brochures about the R.C.I.A. are available in the foyer. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic faith please contact Fr. Adrian McInerney at the Parish Office on: 5332 6611.