

**Reflection on the Gospels-20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(John 6:51-58)**

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of life in Christ, on the Word made flesh.

If the eucharistic overtones were subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel. Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, they are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52). Jesus does not really respond to the question "How....?" Rather, he goes on to tell his hearers that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense. The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. Life for the Israelites was in the blood: blood poured out meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death.

Life in the community unites the believers intimately with Jesus as well as with the God of Israel, whom the Johannine Jesus generally calls "Father". The first reading for today reminds us that other metaphors such as Wisdom were available to those of Jewish heritage for portraying the divine. Wisdom is a female way of imaging the divine. In John's discourse, Jesus becomes Wisdom extending an invitation to the banquet of life. We keep accepting that invitation. It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet alone. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation. In the strength of the sustenance we receive in this banquet, we are also invited to bring a quality of life to all beings that struggle to exist. The potential for this is as boundless as the generosity of our God "enfleshed" in Jesus.

BULLETIN FOR 20th 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, 17th AUGUST 2015**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
SATURDAY:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

READINGS - THE 21st SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Joshua 24:1-2;, 15-18
Second:	Ephesians 5:21-32
Gospel:	John 6:60-69

ANNIVERSARIES: Alan Quanchi, Geoffrey McCartin, Jacob McGarry.

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .Team 9: J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

Next Week: .Team 10: J. Kennedy, P. Kennedy, L. Mullane.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,914.20
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,387.00</u>
		\$ 3,601.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 783.00

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.

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

GUEST SPEAKER

Humanitarian and refugee advocate Julian Burnside will be speaking on Sunday, 23rd August at 2.00 pm at the Ballarat Library on the topic Asylum Seekers - the way forward? All welcome. No cost.

COLLOQUIUM ON THE ENCYCLICAL

To be presented by Fr. Denis Edwards at OLHC Wendouree on Tuesday, 25th August from 9.00 - 4.00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Enquiries and bookings to Sue Searls: sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au ; 0409 401 329 OR scrowe@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au ; 0419 887 274. Booking is required for catering purposes. **RSVP by Thursday, 20th August.** Cost: \$15.00 for morning tea and lunch.

RESPONDING TO EXTREMISM

World renowned speaker, Father Robert McCulloch will give a presentation at Nazareth House on "*Responding to Extremism*" at 7.30 pm on Friday 21st August in the Nazareth House Hall, Mill Street, Lake Wendouree. This will be preceded with Mass in the Chapel at 6.00 pm. All welcome. Please bring a plate for supper. Donation envelopes provided. Enquiries to Carmel: 5332 2103 or 0401 175 045.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

In response to our "Time and Talent" registrations which accompanied the recent Stewardship Program, those people who expressed an interest in becoming Ministers of the Eucharist have been asked to attend a formation night with Sr. Veronica Lawson. Veronica will discuss various scripture passages which refer to the Eucharist. **Because this will be such a good opportunity for deepening our own appreciation of Eucharist we have decided to open the evening to anyone who would like to join in.**

St. Alipius Hall, Wednesday, 2nd September 7.00 - 8.30 pm.
So that we might be prepared, please let us know 5332 6611 or ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au if you will be present.

AUXILIARY COFFEE PARTY

Where: Nazareth House Hall
When: Friday, 4th September 2015
Time: 1.30 pm
Admission: \$5.00
Details: Entrance Prize, Devonshire Tea, Raffle, Spinning Wheel, Produce and Fancy Goods Stall

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