

Reflection on the Gospel- Feast of All Saints Year B (Matthew 5:1-12)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

This year's celebration of All Saints Day comes just one week after the Synod on the Family closes in Rome. We await the outcome of the Synod, recognising that there may not emerge the clarity of direction we have come to expect from Synods of Bishops. Pope Francis speaks of a synod as an experience of "journeying together, laity, pastors and the Bishop of Rome." While he recognises that this may be "an easy concept to put into words", it is "not so easy to put into practice." He reminds us that "a synodal Church is a Church of listening...in which everyone has something to learn: the faithful, the College of Bishops, [and the] Bishop of Rome; each listening to the others; and all listening to the Holy Spirit". Readiness to listen demands humility and today's gospel reading begins with blessings on the humble ("the poor in spirit" and "the meek"). We can thank Pope Francis for calling our Church leaders to a greater humility as they struggle to listen to the Spirit of God at work in family life.

We have become so familiar with the beatitudes that there is a danger of our failing to attend to the extraordinary present and future reversal that they offer to those who suffer injustice at the hands of the not-so-humble. It seems a good time for us to listen anew to these words. God's favour rests on the humble, on the gentle, on those who grieve for the pain of the world, on serious justice seekers, on the mercy-filled, on the pure in heart, on peacemakers, and on those who suffer in the cause of right. We find here a description of so many of the faith-filled families who grace our assemblies with their presence and even of those who find themselves alienated from the institutional Church.

The repetition of "blessed are" echoes Israel's sacred songs and prophecies. God's favour or blessing comes in diverse forms: the *basileia* or empire of the heavens; comfort in the face of grief; the earth for a heritage (a problematic concept); the experience of "being mercied"; face to face encounter with God; a great reward "in heaven". ["Heaven" was a way of talking about God or God's empire of justice and compassion in contrast with the heartless empire of Rome and its modern equivalents].

Maybe the greatest blessing of this feast is on those who mourn the plight of our planet, the uneven access to Earth's precious resources and the resort to arms in the face of conflict. The families at the heart of our Church might hope to be blessed in ways that set them free to transform both our Church and our planetary home.

BULLETIN FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS, 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, 2nd NOVEMBER 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in 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	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

READINGS - THE 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	1 King 17:10-16
Second:	Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel:	Mark 12:38-44

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 8:** B. Ridsdale ©, M. Ridsdale, B. McKeegan.

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



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,069.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debit:	\$ <u>522.00</u>
		\$ 1,891.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 827.00

EVENTS

- Wednesday, 4th November **Information evening** at Damascus College at 6.30 pm.
- Friday, 6th November **Caring Group Meeting** in the hall at 10.00 am.
- Saturday, 7th November **CWL Celebrations.** See Notice Board.
- Saturday, 7th November **Sacred Heart Reunion.** See Notice Board.
- Sunday, 8th November **Mass at Pootilla Cemetery** at 9.30 am.
- Saturday, 21st November **Nazareth House Auxiliary Fete** at 10.00 am. See notice board
- Wednesday 25th November **Anointing Mass** at 2.00 pm.

EUCHARIST TO THE HOMES

Parishioners have become accustomed to seeing ministers assisting the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist. However some may not be aware that the special ministers may also take the Eucharist to family members or friends who, because of age or illness, are unable to attend Mass in person.

To arrange a visit, please contact Jim Moran at the parish office: 5332 6611, or for the Buninyong area, Margaret McCarty: 5341 3243.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

There are many people who are less fortunate than we are, especially at Christmas. We are seeking a person who may be prepared to co-ordinate gift giving to a number of institutional homes in our parish. If you wish to know more please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

LITURGY OF LAMENT TO HOPE

Many of us throughout the Diocese have been disturbed at the information disclosed during the Royal Commission Hearing in Ballarat. We feel great disappointment, disillusionment and anger. This is a natural response to the great wrongs committed in our Church by people whom we trusted. Therefore it has been decided that there will be a **Liturgy of Lament to Hope on November 1st at 2.00 pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.** It will conclude within the hour and Bishop Bird will preside. This will be an opportunity for our Diocese to gather to acknowledge a very dark time in our history, to express our sorrow, ask forgiveness, and move towards hope and healing. We look forward to being together on November 1st for a special time of prayer and reflection. We ask that you pray for all concerned.

RCIA– Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

The end of the Enquiry Period of the RCIA process is marked by a liturgical celebration—the **Rite of Welcome.** This weekend at our Vigil Mass we welcome into the catechumenate **Helen de Weerd , Kate Gale, and Keran Mewett** who have been enquiring into the Catholic faith. Time is now spent learning Catholic traditions and practices and sharing in the worship and prayer of the parish community. This is done through attending the Sunday celebration and reflecting on the Word of Gos heard here and through regular formation sessions with others in the RCIA process. Please make them feel welcome with your encouragement and prayerful support.

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms (during 2016). Experience working in an educational setting is preferred. Training held in February 2016. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and an application form.

REMEMBRANCE MASS

It is a practice of the Catholic Church to pray for the dead during the month of November. In the spirit of this occasion, we at St Alipius Parish have developed our own custom of celebrating a Mass for parishioners who have died in the past year. This year this Mass is to be on **Saturday, 14th November at 6.00 pm.** Following the Mass a “cuppa” will be provided in the hall.

ST VINCENT de PAUL

SVDP is looking to recruit some interested volunteers to work as application interviewers for their No Interest Loan Scheme. The role required good interpersonal skills and basic computer skills. Training will be provided. The hours are probably 9.00 am till noon each Thursday. However, if sufficient volunteers apply there could be a roster so that attendance will not be required each week. These positions will be located at the Ballarat Assistance Centre in Dawson Street. Any enquiries should be directed to Bernie Holloway on 0417 593 793.