

Reflection on the Gospel-The Baptism of Jesus Year C (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's feast marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Over the Christmas season, the liturgy invited us to reflect on and to experience the various comings of Christ in our world and to open ourselves to the action of God's grace at work in our encounters with the living Christ. The readings from Luke's gospel have taken us from the birth of Jesus to the story of his personal decision at age twelve to remain in God's house, the Jerusalem Temple, listening to the teachers of the Law and astonishing them with his answers to their questions.

Now, as an adult and along with "all the people", Jesus receives John's water baptism. The crowds are wondering if John the Baptist is the Christ or Messiah, God's anointed one. John points the people away from himself and towards Jesus who "will baptise ...with the Holy Spirit and fire". Did Jesus also engage in a ministry of baptising the people "for the forgiveness of sins" or is John's reference to Jesus' activity of baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire a metaphor for the distinctive features of his future gospel ministry? In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's second volume, the presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by tongues of fire. Fire is a powerful symbol that functions as a threat on the one hand and as a source of energy and light on the other.

Jesus is God's Chosen One, the Beloved, on whom God's Spirit rests. In light of the first reading from Isaiah 42, the voice of God in the baptism scene commissions Jesus to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare; to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. Those baptised into Christ through the ages are baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" and are called to the same mission as Jesus and the same sensitive approach to the mission. The fire in our hearts sometimes flickers in the face of life's challenges. We are sometimes guilty of crushing "the bruised reed" or extinguishing the flickering flame of hope. As we move into Ordinary Time with its often extraordinary demands, we might think about stirring the embers and fanning the flame of God's love so that justice might prevail in our world and for our planet - justice without violence, if not without pain.

BULLETIN for the BAPTISM of the LORD, YEAR C



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, 11th JANUARY 2016

MONDAY:	2.00 pm - Funeral
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am at Emmaus
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 2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

First:	Isaiah 62:1-5
Second:	Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel:	John 2:1-11

RECENT DEATHS: Henry Spratling, May Jordan.

ANNIVERSARY: Mary McCann.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes, Terry McGarry.

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:	\$ 1,352.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,205.00</u>
		\$ 2,857.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 866.00

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.

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT - Supporting refugee students in local schools

Volunteer mentors needed.

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2016. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form. Applications close on February 5th, 2016.

ADVANCE NOTICE - DATES FOR 2016

- Rite of Election: Saturday, 13th February at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
- Mass of the Oils: Monday, 21st March at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

"GATHERING OF SUPPORT"

Please support our Tamil family who have lived here for over two years, and are now facing deportation. This family has made a fine contribution to our community and integrated well, making lots of friends.

Please come to Alfred Deakin Place on Monday from 5.00 to 7.00 pm for a "Gathering of Support" for them. There will be speakers, some musical entertainment, activities for the children, and more. All are welcome to this public event.

FREE E-BOOK FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR E-READER

(Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-2)

This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader (or tablet), offers the Gospel for everyday of this Liturgical Year C-2 (Sundays Year C, weekdays Year 2), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year C-2 has now begun and will continue till November of 2016. The e-book contains the Gospel passages not only for this present but for any C-2 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their reflections. www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

DIOCESAN E-NEWS

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with an interest in life of the Diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or you are welcome to submit items for publication to: enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au. News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the Diocese and include photos where possible.

GORDON PARISH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

On Sunday, 28th February, 2016 the Gordon Parish Pastoral Council is running a Community Festival at the Wallace Recreation Reserve. Many fun family activities planned with special guest appearances, along with a variety of stalls. Please keep this date free.