

Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

-Veronica M. Lawson

The liturgy for today juxtaposes the introductory verses of Luke's gospel and a passage from the beginning of Jesus Galilean ministry that encapsulates and sets the tone for the whole gospel. If we had no other part of Luke's gospel than these twelve verses, we would know a great deal about the gospel and about its author's intentions.

From the first four verses, we know that Luke is not an eyewitness to the life and ministry of Jesus but is endeavouring to provide an orderly account on the basis of reliable eyewitness accounts handed down to the community by "servants" or ministers of the word. We know that Luke's is one of many and not just four gospels. We also learn that the gospel is carefully researched and addressed to a person of influence called Theophilus, a name that means lover of God or beloved of God. We might guess that Theophilus is Luke's patron, someone who provides the necessary funds to produce this work, and possibly the early equivalent of an RCIA candidate. We know from the grammatical construction that the author is male. And most importantly, we know that Luke sets out to place on a firm foundation the teaching that Theophilus has received about Jesus. The word translated as "truth" (*asphaleia*) in our lectionary can also mean certainty or assurance. Luke wants the gospel message to be well grounded.

When we turn to Luke 4:14-21, we find a dramatic scene set in the Nazareth synagogue. This programmatic scene sets the tone for the whole gospel. Luke's gospel story is about the release that comes from the gracious and expansive love of God mediated through God's anointed and Spirit-filled prophet. Every significant event in Luke is powered by the Spirit of God. This event is no exception. The Spirit-filled Jesus searches out and proclaims a passage from the prophet Isaiah, a combination of Isaiah 61:1-2 and 58:9. He then points to his own mission as a fulfilment of the Isaian prophecy. Jesus thus presents himself as the Spirit-filled anointed one of God who brings good news to the destitute or homeless poor, release to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. The Greek word translated as "oppressed" literally means "shattered". It evokes images of asylum seekers in detention centres and of the hundreds of thousands displaced by war. It evokes the pain of the Earth itself and the other-than-human inhabitants of our planet suffering the effects of climate change and ecological destruction. If the gospel message is to be well-grounded in our times, the "destitute" and "shattered" of our Earth community must find the "release" of which the gospel speaks.

BULLETIN for the 3rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, 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, 25th JANUARY 2016

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:	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 4th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

First:	Jeremiah 1:4-5.17-19
Second:	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Gospel:	Luke 4:21-30

RECENT DEATH: Frank Godfrey.

ANNIVERSARY: Frances Murphy.

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, Kevin Walsh, Margaret Gallagher.

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:	\$ 1,319.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit cards:	\$ 7,332.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>757.00</u>
		\$ 9,708.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 812.00

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

Mass of the Oils: Monday, 21st March at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

SCOTSBURN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Thanks to your generosity the Parish has donated \$8,173.00 to this very worthy appeal.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Would the person with Env. No. 21 please contact Jim at the Parish Office on: 5332 6611.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

Anyone who would like to be involved in a Lenten Discussion Group is invited to contact the Parish Office on 5332 6611 or email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

ST. ALIPIUS PARISH BOOKLET

We are presently producing an information booklet about the groups operating within our parish for newcomers and those who'd like to make contact and/or become involved. Thank you to the groups who have provided information about the booklet. Brief descriptions of groups/ministries, outlining their purpose/activities, meeting times etc. and a contact name and phone number/ email address can be emailed to Kristen Murray: kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au or left at the presbytery. We hope also to include several images in the booklet so will be taking snaps over the next couple of weekends. If you have photos of group/church activities you're happy to share, please email them to Kristen or leave them at the presbytery. Thank you.

MUSIC AT THE BREWERY

Sunday, 31st January from 2.30 pm at 107 Yuille Street, Buninyong (Near Gardens).

In aid of local asylum seekers and ASRC.

Live music. Entrance: \$15.00. Children: free. Afternoon tea provided.

For further information: Merle Hathaway: 0419 324 042, email:

merle.hathaway@bigpond.com or Margaret O'Donnell: 0402 498 644.

RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on **Saturday, 13th February at 12.30 pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.** The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in St. Patrick's Hall for a light lunch. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph: 5337 7159 or email: pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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.