

Gospel Reflection – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 5:1-11)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The gospel reading opens with Jesus by the lake shore looking for a little space from the people who are pressing around him to hear “the word of God”. For the gospel writer, the word of Jesus is the word of God. The listener/reader has been gradually prepared, in the baptism scene and in the synagogue at Nazareth, to receive this momentous statement. Jesus is the anointed of God who brings good news/God’s word to the destitute. The gospel narrative assumes that the crowd by the lake receives his teaching as God’s word.

Jesus spots two empty boats, gets into the one that belongs to Simon Peter, whom he seems to know since he feels free to do this and even to ask Simon to move the boat out from the shore. Having gained the distance he needs, Jesus sits down and teaches the crowd from the boat. God’s word thus comes to the people from the potentially regenerative waters of the lake. Simon no doubt has one ear on Jesus’ teaching as he and his despondent business partners clean the nets and pack up ready to go home without any fish. They have fished all night without a single catch.

Evoking the creation story of Genesis where God’s spirit moves over the face of the deep, Jesus invites Simon and his companions to put out into deep water and lower the nets for a catch, even though the odds of a catch seem very slim. Simon Peter hesitates, noting that they have laboured without success all night. He nonetheless follows Jesus’ instructions. The dramatic result of his attending to Jesus’ word brings Simon to his knees: he acknowledges his limitations, his “sinfulness” in gospel terms. Jesus then commissions him to engage fearlessly in a new mission of reaching out beyond his present business enterprise to “catch people”. This commission is not to be understood as a recruitment drive for the reign of God movement. As the gospel story unfolds we discover that it is, rather, a mission to bring the vulnerable safely to shore where they can know the compassion and justice and “hospitality” of God.

While Peter and his companions are said to “leave everything” and “follow” Jesus, the subsequent narrative makes it clear that they do not abandon their fishing activities. They simply re-centre their lives on the following of Jesus. In other words, they undertake to live out in their lives the pattern of Jesus’ life amid the ordinary concerns of daily life. The previous chapter has provided glimpses of that pattern: bringing good news to the destitute, release to the shattered, healing to the sick and the broken. In our times, we are beginning to realise that the “shattered” includes the despoiled Earth and its often polluted waters.

BULLETIN for the 5th 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, 8th FEBRUARY 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	9.30 am - Funeral Mass
ASH WEDNESDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
	12.00 pm in Parish Church
	6.00 pm in Parish Church
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	No Mass
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 FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, YEAR C

First:	Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Second:	Romans 10:8-13
Gospel:	Luke 4:1-13

RECENT DEATHS: Joseph Van Roy, Roderick Beshara, Cornelius Bernard (Colin) Cahill, Anthony Boswerger.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tom Shannon, Tracey Twycross.

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, Pat Pearce.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .Team 10: J. Kennedy ©, P. Kennedy, L. Mullane.

Next Week: .Team 11: P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,070.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>252.00</u>
		\$ 1,622.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 709.00

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

In the Mercy Centre, Gent St. entrance, on Wednesday, 10th February at 2.00 pm. All welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE

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

DAMASCUS COLLEGE OPEN MORNING

OPEN MORNING: Thursday, 11th February, 9.00 am - 10.30 am

PLEASE NOTE: Enrolment Applications for Year 7 2017 close on Friday, 12th February 2016

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE ENROLMENT YEAR 7/SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

See Notice Board for details.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Are sought from parishioners with an interest in justice, peace, human rights and development to join the Diocesan Social Justice Commission. The link to the Expressions of Interest form is: <http://tinyurl.com/bdjsc2016> Further information is available at the Parish Office and should be completed by 15th February 2016.

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

PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES

Are available this weekend.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The members of SVDP wish to thank those who contributed to our recent Christmas Appeal and everyone who assisted us in anyway throughout 2015. Your assistance enables us to continue our work of supporting those who find themselves in financial difficulties in the Ballarat area.

We are currently seeking volunteers for our Monday Evening Bread Run. The bread is sorted and delivered to homes in the Ballarat East area. The commitment for volunteers is from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. If you are interested in joining our bread delivery team please contact Geoff Clarkson: 5340 0782.

LET THEM STAY

After the High Court ruling on Wednesday the Ballarat Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children (GADRC Ballarat) are not prepared to stand by and let the Australian Government deport innocent people to face further harm and abuse. We will stand in protest from 10 am for an hour or so outside the office of Catherine King MP on Monday, 15th February.

Despite Minister Dutton claiming the detention centre in Nauru is now open, we know that to live there as an asylum seeker or refugee is not a safe environment or conducive to good mental health.

If you believe that the 80+ children (32 of these children have been born in Australia) and their families should not be sent back to Nauru please come and join the Ballarat grandmothers and friends when we ask our elected representative to take our message to the Federal Parliament.

Please extend this invitation as far and wide as possible.

WHAT: LET THEM STAY rally.

WHEN: Monday, 15th February at 10.00 am.

WHERE: 5 Lydiard St Nth Ballarat Vic. 3350.

WHY: No child should be in detention.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Newell & Sheila Barrett who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary this week and to Brian & Monica McKeegan who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

HOUSE FOR LEASE

Due to one of our parishioners being admitted to Nazareth House, there is a 3 bedroom house in Victoria St. for lease. For further details please contact Paul Mullane on 0438 363 269.