

Reflection on the Gospel-1st Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 4:1-11)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Lent is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the “wilderness” or “desert place” and grappling with the mysteries of life. While deserts are often depicted as uninhabited or desolate regions, anyone who has spent time in such places knows that the desert supports a rich diversity of other-than-human life. Human retreat to the wilderness can be an opportunity to encounter God in the unfamiliar and self in relation to the other-than human. It can reveal to us our capacities for right relationship with God, with each other, and with the Earth. Right relationship resides in “power-with” rather than “power-over”.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deut 8:2). Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many human beings before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek *peirazein* than the usual “tempted”].

The three-fold testing of Jesus in the wilderness is about the proper exercise of power and about trust in a loving God. In refusing to turn the stones of the wilderness into bread in order to satisfy his own hunger, Jesus demonstrates that he is not prepared to exercise power over the other-than-human Earth, even if he had the capacity to work such magic. By refusing to accept the “glory of all the kingdoms of the world”, he shows that power over the human communities of the Earth is not “of God” and that worship belongs to God alone. Finally, in refusing to cast himself from the parapet of Israel’s holiest shrine, the Jerusalem Temple, he makes it clear that he is not prepared to test the power of God to rescue him from a self-inflicted death or to use God’s holy place to such ends. The Lukan Jesus passes the tests that the people Israel failed in the wilderness of Sinai.

Adelaide priest, Michael Trainor, in a wonderfully sensitive reading of Luke’s gospel, detects three ecological ethical principles in today’s gospel reading: 1) Earth is to be cared for and treated respectfully, not ravaged through greed; 2) All ecological and environmental engagement is grounded in and enhanced by one’s communion with God; and 3) Earth’s resources are to be respected by all and not usurped as a means of power and control by one over another (*About Earth’s Child* 2012, pp.107-109). These principles derive from the story as a whole with its three-fold testing and from Jesus’ three-fold response to these tests.

BULLETIN for the FIRST SUNDAY of LENT, 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, 15th FEBRUARY 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am at Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	No Mass
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 SECOND SUNDAY of LENT, YEAR C

First:	Genesis 15:5-12.17-18
Second:	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel:	Luke 9:28-36

RECENT DEATHS: Bill Judd.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kathleen Nolan, James Curran, Helen Dondoy, Jimmy Calistro, Mary Blood, Lucy Wolfe, Mr & Mrs Harasimowkz, Bruno Van Dooren.

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 11:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

Next Week: .**Team 12:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,378.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,780.00</u>
		\$ 3,458.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 720.00

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.

INVEST IN YOUR MOST PRECIOUS ASSET.....YOUR MARRIAGE!

Marriage Encounter Weekend dates: 8th - 10th April; 17th - 19th June; 19th - 21st August; 11th - 13th November.

Starts at 7.00 pm on Friday. Ends at 5.00 pm on Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: Marianne & Marcel ph: 9733 0997 or email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: www.wwme.org.au

CENTACARE

2016 "Preparing for Marriage" brochures are available on the notice board.

ENCOUNTERS

Encounter Mission and Development, Encounter Love and Justice, Encounter Humble Volunteers, Encounter Faith, Encounter God. Palms Australia will be conducting a guided tour of the communities in which their global volunteers are working in East Timor from: 11th - 23rd April; 4th - 16th July; 26th September - 8th October 2016. There are limited spaces. Enquiries need to be processed by February 22nd so call 02 9518 9551 or register interest online: www.palms.org.au/Encounters

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE PARTY

Thursday, 17th March at 1.30 pm in the Hall. See notice board.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

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.

ST ALIPIUS CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAM -2016

The St Alipius' Children's Liturgy Program recommenced last weekend at our 6.00 pm Vigil Mass, and will take place on a weekly to fortnightly basis during our Saturday Vigil Masses. Dates are available on the notice board.

This program, which follows the Liturgical Year, caters for kinder and school aged children and operates throughout school term. During liturgies children are invited to participate in prayer, reflect on the Gospel in relation to their lives and share their reflections and participate in creative activities.

The program is run by parent volunteers who lead and support the sessions. Volunteers are provided with resources and supported in their roles. If you are interested in becoming a leader or support in our Children's Liturgy Program, please contact Kristen Murray on 5340 0286 or email kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au