

Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Lent Year C (Luke 9:28-36)

Last week, the wilderness was a character in the gospel reading. This week, we find a mountain and a cloud featuring significantly in the narrative. These other-than-human characters (wilderness, mountain, and cloud) and the prophets of old (Moses and Elijah) link Luke's story of Jesus to the Israelites' covenant relationship with their God. Wilderness, mountain, and cloud also remind us that God's Earth is the locus of mystery: the place where human and other-than-human Earth beings are transformed through encounter with the divine.

For Jesus, the mountain is already a place of encounter with God, a place of prayer. Luke has Jesus spending a night in prayer on an unidentified mountain before he chooses the Twelve. Jesus now takes three of his closest friends (Peter, John, and James) up another unidentified mountain where the aspect of his face changes and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, "appear" and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet.

This episode seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate: if he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with this realisation in the wilderness and comes to terms with what it involves on the mountain. The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus and calls for a response: "Listen to him". These words are reminiscent of Moses' instruction to the Israelites: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet" (Deut 18:15). For Luke, Jesus is the prophet-like-Moses whom they must heed. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. The tents evoke once more the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness.

Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of glory. We also need the good sense to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to hear the prophet-like-Moses in our times, we have to come to terms with the personal costs involved. Some of us actually need to go alone or together to a mountain top or place of extraordinary beauty to discover again the strength that comes from encountering the divine. I once climbed within view of Everest. Every now and then, I climb Mt Buninyong. At such times, I know the wonder of God revealed in the beauty of the earth itself even as I sense its fragility and susceptibility to destruction.

BULLETIN for the SECOND 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, 22nd FEBRUARY 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am at Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am at Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church 12.00 noon - Opening Year Mass - Emmaus Catholic Primary School
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	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

READINGS -	The THIRD SUNDAY of LENT, YEAR A
First:	Exodus 17:3-7
Second:	Romans 5:1-2.5-8
Gospel:	John 4:5-42

RECENT DEATH: Dorothy Magness.

ANNIVERSARIES: Stella Moran, Bert Shillito.

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 12:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

Next Week: .**Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 2,377.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>697.00</u>
		\$ 3,374.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 742.00

LENTEN REGULATIONS

See Notice Board.

ST. ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS

Are available this weekend near the piety stall.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be held in Ss Peter & Paul's Church Buninyong on Wednesday, 24th February at 7.00 pm and every other Wednesday until Easter. All welcome.

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.

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE PARTY

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

WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES

See Notice Board for details.

ST. ALIPIUS PARISH BOOKLET

This is the final call for articles for our Parish booklet. The booklet will include information about ministries and groups operating within our parish for newcomers and those who'd like to make contact and/or become involved. 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 by Monday, 22nd February. We hope also to include several images in the booklet. If you have photos of group/ church activities you're happy to share, please email them to Kristen or leave them at the Presbytery (high resolution digital images preferable). Thank you.

PRAYER VIGIL

Parishioners and Community Members are invited to gather in St. Alipius Parish Church to pray for the victims and survivors of abuse and the work of the Royal Commission on Wednesday, 24th February between 5.30 pm and 8.00 pm. You are welcome for a few minutes or an extended time of prayer and reflection.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

These international, ecumenical prayer services will be held this year on Friday, 4th March. The service, used worldwide, has been prepared this year by the Christian women of Cuba, a communist country.

Services in Ballarat will be hosted by the Anglican Cathedral Church of Christ the King and Scots Presbyterian Church at 10.00 am and 2.00 pm respectively, and at Ss Peter & Paul's Catholic Church in Buninyong at 7.00 pm. Services will also be held at Pineview and Nazareth House and at John Curtin Hostel in Creswick.

Please join us to share the hopes and prayers of the Christian women of the world. For further information please see the Community Diary in The Courier on Thursdays, or contact Janice Marty on 5341 3809. Men are very welcome!

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.