

Gospel Reflection – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 4:21-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

This week's gospel reading continues the story of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. At first he is universally accepted: the townspeople marvel at the gracious words he utters and identify him as Joseph's son. By the end of the story, however, these same people actually try to kill him. So, what happens in between to cause such a dramatic change of heart? These are religious people, not an unruly street mob. They are friends of the family. They are familiar with their sacred texts and traditions and presumably want to understand them more fully. In fact, they are like most of us who take time out on a weekly basis to come together in worship and prayer with those who share our faith.

Unfortunately, the people of Nazareth seem to be carrying a sense of exclusive entitlement to God's favour, as well as some deeply entrenched prejudices against the neighbouring Syrians and Phoenicians. Their history is largely one of conflict with neighbours, of struggle for survival, and some are unwilling to relinquish their unhealed local and national grievances. When Jesus suggests that God's prophetic and healing power is accessible to and may even be more readily received among foreigners than within Israel, their anger knows no bounds: it spills over into violence. They have little patience with the implicit criticism and the prophetic challenge of his words.

One of the problems with the narrative is that Jesus seems to deliberately provoke a negative reaction. There are other problems as well: there is no cliff in Nazareth from which the enraged crowd could cast him to his death, and it is highly unlikely that people of this tiny town of two to four hundred Galilean Jews would resort to murdering one of their own for what they perceive as a verbal assault. So what is going on? It would seem that the gospel writer is putting elements of later stories about the violent treatment of Jesus and his followers into this episode in order to foreshadow what is to come.

The story thus becomes a microcosm of the gospel as a whole. When the message is comforting, the messenger is well received. When it is less palatable, the messenger is in danger of being attacked, more often than not at the hands of people who are basically good, people like us. Unchecked assumptions, deep-seated biases, and uncontrolled emotions will function to bring the anointed prophet of the God of Israel to a violent death. This story invites us to check our assumptions and our biases lest we turn to physical, verbal, or emotional violence in the face of prophetic challenge.

BULLETIN for the FOURTH 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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Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 7th MARCH 2016

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| MONDAY: | No Mass |
| TUESDAY: | 11.00 am in Mercy Centre |
| WEDNESDAY: | 11.00 am in Mercy Centre |
| 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

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| ST. ALIPIUS | SAT | 6.00 PM |
| | SUN | 10.30 AM |
| BUNINYONG | SUN | 9.00 AM |

READINGS - The FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT, YEAR A

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| First: | Ezekiel 37:12-14 |
| Second: | Romans 8:8-11 |
| Gospel: | John 11:1-45 |

RECENT DEATH: Tommy Simpson.

ANNIVERSARIES: Brian Lewis, Patrick Joseph Duggan.

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 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.

Next Week: .**Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

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|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| PARISH: | Envelopes: | \$ 1,287.50 |
| | Loose money: | \$ 300.00 |
| | Direct debits: | \$ <u>472.00</u> |
| | | \$ 2,059.50 |
| PRESBYTERY: | | \$ 828.00 |

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be held in Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong on Wednesday, 9th March at 7.00 pm. All welcome.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Contributions donated towards Project Compassion support people around the world experiencing extreme poverty and injustice. It will also help people in marginalized areas of the Pacific who have been affected by cyclone Winston to rebuild their lives for a sustainable future. In these challenging times, our prayers, solidarity and support is important. Please return your envelope/box to help support of these most vulnerable communities.

STUDY TOUR of the BIBLICAL LANDS

Catholic Theological College: 12th November - 15th December 2016. Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Turkey.

Tour Leaders: Dr. Rosemary Canavan & Rev. Anthony Dean cm

Information session: Saturday, 19th March, 2016 at 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

RSVP & further information: Jenny Delahunt T: 9412 3314; E: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au

WALK FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES

Date: Sunday, 20th March

Time: 2.00 pm

Where: State Library, cnr Swanston & Latrobe Streets, Melbourne.

See Notice Board.

KEEP THESE DATES FREE

ANOINTING MASS on Wednesday, 9th March at 2.00 pm. Mass will be followed by afternoon tea in the hall. Donations of food will be gratefully received.

Anyone who needs transport please contact a member of the Caring Group.

CARING GROUP MEETING (AGM) will be held on Friday, 11th March at 10.00 am in St Alipius Hall. All welcome.

DIOCESAN CODE OF CONDUCT FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

It is important that all persons who work or volunteer who work with children are familiar with the Code of Conduct. See notice board for details.

BUNINYONG CHURCH FUNDRAISER

The recent cattle agistment fundraiser has now been finalised resulting in a net profit of \$6,812.54. Once again thank you to Michael Clark, Laurie Mullane, TB White & Sons and all who participated by agisting cattle.

MASS OF THE OILS

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30 pm on **Monday, 21st March**. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2016 - the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph: 5337 7159 or email: pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE PARTY

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

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Will acknowledge 50 years on Swanston St. and the Loreto Sisters' leadership of the College (1918 - 2013) with a Jubilee Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Hart at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Newman College, 887 Swanston St, Parkville commencing at 3 pm on Sunday, 13th March, followed by a Garden Party in the St. Mary's Courtyard. The Musical Directors are Ms Fiona Dyball & Sr Deidre Browne ibvm. Alumni, friends and supporters of St. Mary's are all warmly invited. RSVP for catering purposes to the College on 9349 9555 or secretary@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au

LENTEN REGULATIONS

See notice board