

Reflection on the Gospel-Passion Sunday Year C (Luke 22:14-23:56)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Jesus of Nazareth is executed in Jerusalem when the city is filled with pilgrims who are there to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover. A year after his execution, when his friends and family gather once more for Passover, they find new meaning in the celebration of the feast. Every Passover from now on will mark the anniversary of the death of Jesus and will be celebrated through the lens of their experience of his life and death. They share their memories of the one they loved so deeply and reflect on the meaning of his life and death in the light of their wisdom traditions. Every element of their Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of God's people from slavery, will echo with resonances of the life and death of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. It is not surprising, then, that these final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of the Jesus' story to be committed to writing. Neither is it surprising that each of the canonical gospels includes an account of Jesus' suffering and death and that each approaches the events from its own particular perspective.

There are several unique features in Luke's account. The most remarkable to my mind is Jesus' readiness to forgive his executioners even while they continue to mock him. Another is his capacity to reach out to others: to 'turn towards' the women of Jerusalem, to receive their compassionate mourning, and to express his own concern for them. In line with his overall intention to demonstrate that Christianity is no threat to the Roman Empire, Luke repeatedly points to the innocence of Jesus. The Lukan Jesus is the rejected prophet who trusts utterly in God and into whose hands he entrusts his spirit. He dies with the same sort of dignity that has characterised his life.

It is easy to let our own hurt find expression in criticism or mistreatment of others whom we fail to understand. It is also easy to retaliate in the face of unjust accusation and insult. It takes more courage than most of us can muster to name unjust treatment for what it is, to truly forgive, to retain our peace of mind in such circumstances, and to trust in the power of God to break through the ignorance that engenders violence. Palestinian activist Lucy Nusseibeh (founder and director of MEND, Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy) and the members of the Israeli Coalition of Women for a Just Peace have learned that lesson and are showing others the way of non-violence. As we enter into the mysteries of Holy Week, we might pray for the grace to act with the dignity of the Lukan Jesus and thus circumvent the cycles of violence in our own contexts.

BULLETIN for PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 21st MARCH 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 at Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 at Mercy Centre
HOLY THURSDAY:	7.00 pm in Parish Church
GOOD FRIDAY:	3.00 pm in Parish Church
SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL:	7.00 pm in Parish Church
EASTER SUNDAY:	9.00 am at Buninyong 10.30 am at St. Alipius

READINGS - RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - EASTER SUNDAY

First:	Acts 10:34a.36-43
Second:	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel:	John 20:1-9

RECENT DEATHS: Noelene Fletcher, Joan Meade.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ian Hay, John Dooley.

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, Bridget Wade.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Next Week: .**Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,085.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>527.00</u>
		\$ 1,912.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,023.00



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.

BUNINYONG - GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS

On Good Friday the Combined Churches of Buninyong invite you to join their annual commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus. The readings and procession commence from the front of the Buninyong Town Hall at 8.30 am, and conclude at the Labyrinth in the grounds of the Uniting Church shortly after 9.00 am.

WAY OF THE CROSS

St. Alipius Parish School community invites the parishioners of St. Alipius to join us in a time of prayer and reflection at 12 midday on Thursday, 24th March as we contemplate Jesus' journey to the Tomb.

We will gather in the presbytery garden to reflect on Jesus' Gethsemene experience, then move into the Church to continue this journey of prayer.

We hope you can join us.

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.

COMMUNAL SERVICE OF PENANCE

Tuesday, 22nd March - St. Alipius Church at 7.00 pm.

RCIA-RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION EASTER VIGIL and SUPPER to follow

Next Saturday at the 7.00 pm Easter Vigil we initiate into the parish community Keran Mewett and Kate Gale whom we have been accompanying over the past months. Keran will celebrate the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist whilst Kate will be confirmed and celebrate her eucharist. As sponsors, catechists and the whole parish community, we have all been enriched by their desire to share faith in our faith. Following the Vigil let us show our support for them by joining in a shared cuppa and supper in the parish hall. Please bring along a plate of supper to share to the hall before the vigil, Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Due to a computer malfunction last week the envelopes/statements were not available for collection. Envelopes were posted out earlier this week, and statements for those paying by credit card or direct debit are available for collection this weekend.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON - CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the Social Afternoon will be on **Wednesday, 30th March** instead of 23rd as planned. All welcome.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

If your child/grandchild wishes to receive First Eucharist and does not attend one of our parish schools please contact the Parish Office on 5332 6611 with details.

REUNION

St. John of God Past Trainees Reunion is being held at Ballarat Golf Club on Saturday, 9th April. For details call Geraldine Vagg: 0418 554 096.