

**Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 2C
(John 20:19-31)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Some of you may remember when we spoke of the Sundays “after Easter”. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays “of Easter”. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today’s gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors “for fear” of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his “Father”. They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit.

The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves, and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in our pursuit of justice and peace. It also invites us to ponder the consequences of forgiving on the one hand and of not forgiving on the other. To forgive another is to release that person from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness opens up the possibility of healing for all concerned. To refuse forgiveness or to “retain” the sins of another is to leave that person unforgiven and so unhealed. We might also consider the consequences of refusing to open ourselves to forgiveness. More often than not, those who refuse to forgive others have failed to forgive themselves for their own failures.

The second and third scenes in today’s gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own first hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear from the outset are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled their fears. Even those who do believe and trust may need a bit of time to take the gospel message on board.

BULLETIN for the SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 3rd APRIL 2016**

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:	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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Acts 5:27-32
	Second:	Apocolypse 5:11-14
	Gospel:	John 21:1-19

ANNIVERSARIES: Isabel Britt, Maureen Hunt, Gregory McShane, Paul Dunn, Tom & Agnes Mackin, William Stevens, Ethel O’Beirne.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Marina Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Margaret Gallagher, Bridget Wade, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Christian Ashby.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

Next Week: .**Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,740.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>472.00</u>
		\$ 2,512.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1550.00

JAM FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

A big thank you to the Buninyong community for their generous support of our jam session. Over \$250 was raised for Project Compassion. Bob & Jan Marty.

VICTORIAN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

A fundraising concert will be held at **Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong on Sunday, 26th June at 2.00 pm.** Advance bookings are strongly recommended as a sell out is likely. Contact John & Geraldine White on 5341 2675 or 0402 808 299. Tickets **\$30**. Afternoon tea provided.

INVITATION

Dr. Rachel Carling-Jenkins MLC—Member for Western Metro and a committed Christian, will speak in the Infant Viability Bill which she is introducing into State Parliament soon. This is to change Victoria's abortion laws to protect pre born babies from the 20th week of gestation. She will speak from **11.30 am to 12.30 this Sunday, 3rd April at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons St Sth, Ballarat.** A light lunch will be served and all are welcome. Petitions are circulating and your support is vital. Rachel is totally opposed to abortion so come along and ask the questions that you need answered. Enquiries 0401 175 045. Entry free.

E-NEWS

E-News is available to all members of the diocese and those associated with, and with an interest in, the life of the diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or you are welcome to submit items for publication to enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au. News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the diocese and include photos where possible.

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.

MERCY ASSOCIATES PILGRIMAGE

The Mercy Associates invite you to join them on a Pilgrimage to the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Nicholson St, Fitzroy - the first Sisters of Mercy established in Victoria— on Wednesday, 20th April 2016.

On this Pilgrimage we will travel, reflect, pray and talk together on mercy and compassion in our lives and the world today.

Catherine McAuley was the founder of the Sisters of Mercy and Ursula Frayne was one of Catherine's early companions in Dublin. Ursula led a group of Sisters to Australia and established works of compassion and mercy in Melbourne. We will visit Ursula's grave, memorial chapel and have a tour of The Academy.

A pre-pilgrimage Information Session will be held on Monday, 11th April from 2.00 pm—3.00 pm in the Mercy Gathering Room, Gent St, Ballarat (off Victoria St). For further information please contact Ursula Diamond-Keith, email gudiamond-keith@live.com.au or ph 0407 717 626, Margaret McDonald, email nanny-macca@gmail.com or ph 5343 5315 or Rita Hayes rsm, email ritahayes@mercy.org.au or ph 5331 3026.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

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

BALLARAT MOSQUE OPEN DAY

The Islamic Society of Victoria in conjunction with Ballarat Interfaith Network is hosting an opportunity to visit Ballarat's Mosque, 116 Elsworth St, Canadian on Saturday, 16th April from 12.00 –3.00 pm.

Many of you may have been at the highly successful picnic at Lake Esmond two years ago which was followed by the not-quite-finished mosque. We do hope you will take this opportunity to join with old friends and meet with new ones and see the finished and in-use mosque.

Lecture by Sheikh Waseem Razvi on interfaith dialogue.