

Reflection of the Gospel-Easter 3C (John 21:1-19)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Simon Peter has a higher profile in this final chapter of John's gospel than in the first twenty chapters. It is as though the author responsible for the final edition of John's gospel wants to bring Peter to prominence in line with the traditions found in the other gospels. In the previous chapter, it is not at all clear that Peter has come to resurrection faith, while there is no such doubt about the faith of Mary of Magdala. It is she who receives the first resurrection appearance in this gospel. She is also commissioned to proclaim the news of the resurrection to the other disciples. In John 21, Mary Magdalene and the women disciples who have featured so significantly in other parts of John are curiously absent from the closing scenes of the gospel. The focus is clearly on Peter, his role as leader, and his relationship with Jesus.

Peter announces that he intends to go fishing and several of the other disciples join him. They catch nothing. At dawn, they see the figure of Jesus on the shore. As in some of the other resurrection stories, his disciples, with the exception of the "beloved disciple", do not recognise him immediately. They follow his instructions and find themselves overwhelmed with their catch. At the invitation of Jesus, they breakfast on bread and fish. This provides the setting for the rehabilitation of Peter and for his three-fold profession of love of Jesus in the wake of his three-fold denial.

While this passage is filled with symbolism, we might pause to appreciate the materiality underlying the symbols. There are eucharistic overtones in the bread and fish, and in Jesus' action of taking the bread and giving it to the disciples. Sheep and shepherding are key symbols in John where Jesus identifies himself as the "good shepherd". Fishing is an important gospel metaphor for ministry. The number of fish (153) probably denotes the totality or universality of the mission. The untorn net is a symbol of unity, like the seamless garment in the passion narrative. The verb "to draw" has several layers of meaning in this fishing context: the disciples were not able "to *draw* in the net....so Simon Peter went aboard and *drew* the net ashore". These statements evoke earlier sayings of Jesus, particularly his words on the cross, "And I if I am lifted up from the earth will draw *all* to myself" (12:32). The "all" allows for the whole Earth community, and not only the human community, to be drawn to the crucified and resurrected One.

As we reflect on this gospel reading, we might simply listen, as flawed individuals and as church, to Jesus' question: "Do you love me?" Peter's example reminds us that a wholehearted response is possible despite the failures of the past.

BULLETIN for the THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, 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, 10th APRIL 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church with St Francis Xavier Primary School
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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Acts 13:14,43-52
	Second:	Apocolypse 7:9,14-17
	Gospel:	John 10:27-30

RECENT DEATH: Graeme O'Toole, Bishop Ronald Mulkearns, Terry Innes.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jim Murphy, Brian Edwards, Patricia Clohesy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, 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, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Christian Ashby.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: .**Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,790.30
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,405.00</u>
		\$ 3,496.30
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 803.00



SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 13th April in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

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.

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.

DIOCESAN WEBSITE

The new diocesan website was launched late last year—www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The website contains information on the diocese and parishes and also has a section for members to access resources relevant to diocesan ministries.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you to those who have donated towards the Caritas Australia's annual appeal, Project Compassion. Your gift, both prayer and financial giving, ensures the world's poorest and marginalized communities are supported through Caritas Australia's transforming and self-sustaining programs. If you have not already donated and wish to do so, could you please place your gift in a clearly marked envelope and place it on the collection plate next week so that the appeal can be finalized and donations forwarded to Caritas Australia.

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.