

Reflection of the Gospel-Easter 4C (John 10:27-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

One of the blessings of my life has been the opportunity to work in several different cultural contexts. My ministry has taken me twice to the Good Shepherd Centre in Angers in France. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd were founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk. Taking their inspiration from the gospel image of the Good Shepherd, they continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. In recent years they have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation".

Good Shepherd foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act? They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and difficulties – no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night they are on guard against wolves – they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek, like the Good Shepherd family, to care for our threatened Earth community.

Strangely enough, for the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Most shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. They thus broke the Jewish purity laws and were considered unclean. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. It is that tradition that the gospel evokes. Today's gospel has Jesus say: "The sheep that belong to me hear my voice...." Later in John's gospel, Mary Magdalene will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one of Jesus' "own", one who knows his voice. Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb.

Eternal life and the oneness of Jesus with God are also features of today's gospel. Jesus announces: "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Eternal life is never-ending life. It is the inheritance of those who hear his voice. To hear is to follow through with action. That is the way of those inspired by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is the way of the Good Shepherd family and of all who hear the voice of the Shepherd.

BULLETIN for the FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

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Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 18th 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
SATURDAY:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Acts 14:21-27
	Second:	Apocalypse 21:1-5
	Gospel:	John 13:31-35

RECENT DEATH: Barry Brennan.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Murphy, Nell Goossens, Cath Thorpe, Bridget Casey, Vic Jones, Annie Roach, Maria Dondoy, Jane Roach, Sarah Walker

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 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.

Next Week: .**Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,159.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,197.00</u>
		\$ 2,656.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 964.00

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.

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 so that the appeal can be finalized and donations forwarded to Caritas Australia.

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.

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.

ST ALIPIUS CHILDREN'S PROGRAM—TERM 2 2016

St Alipius Children's Program commences at our 6.00 pm Vigil Mass this weekend. Children's Liturgy takes place on a weekly to fortnightly basis during Vigil Masses on Saturdays at 6.00 pm. Dates are on the notice board in the foyer of the church.

The Childrens Liturgy Program caters for kinder and school age children and operates throughout school term. Children preparing for their sacraments are most welcome to attend. Our Program follows the Liturgical Year. During liturgies, children are invited to participate in prayer, reflect on the Gospel in relation to their lives and share their reflections and participate in creative activities.

The program is run by parent volunteers who lead and support the sessions.

Volunteers are provided with resources and supported in their roles.

If you are interested in becoming a leader or support person in our Children's Liturgy Program, please contact Kristen Murray on 5340 0286 or email kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jack Patton who celebrates his 80th birthday this weekend.

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.

HOUSE FOR RENT

A three bedroom house is available for rent. Enquiries to Karen Davies on 0407 820 622.

ST ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS

Are available for collection near the Piety Stall this weekend.