

**Reflection on the Gospel -Easter 5C
(John 13:31-35)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The literary context for today's gospel reading is Jesus' final meal with his disciples. Jesus has washed the feet of his foot-weary table companions, and has thus provided an example of what it means to love. What he has done for them, they are to do for one another. In other words, no form of service is too menial for a Christian disciple, and privileged exemption from service of others has no place in gospel living or in gospel leadership. Pope Francis has witnessed powerfully to this from the beginning of his papacy and in diverse ways over the past three years.

Jesus is troubled in spirit (v. 21) at this meal. There is a sense of foreboding in this statement. He knows that membership of the group is no guarantee of fidelity or of sustained goodness. All are capable of betrayal and Judas, who has been one of his closest companions, is about to hand him over to the authorities and ultimately to death. Another, Simon Peter, after protesting undying loyalty will proceed to deny him three times (vv. 37-38). Though troubled and no doubt disappointed by the failure of his friends and the dire consequences for himself, Jesus continues to teach the way of discipleship.

The betrayer's departure from the meal, Jesus informs them, signals the imminent arrival of the moment of glorification. Events have been set in train that will culminate in God's victory over evil and death. But this is not the end of their association with him. He will leave them very soon and they are to continue on the way of discipleship. His legacy to them is "a new commandment" - to love one another just as he has loved them. If they do that, everyone will know they are his disciples. To love as Jesus loved, however, is no small thing: it is to be willing to give one's life for the sake of "the other".

This new commandment to love one another is also Jesus' legacy to us, the successors of those early disciples. Loving care of the broken-hearted, of the war-ravaged and displaced, of the sick and the weary; providing shelter for the homeless; attentiveness to those grieving the loss of loved ones or of livelihood; a restorative gesture or word; a change in lifestyle or a tree planted in the interests of planetary survival - these are some of the ways of love and of discipleship. In our times, we have come to realise that "the other" embraces the more-than-human and that love of all God's creation is part of the new commandment.

BULLETIN for the FIFTH 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, 25th APRIL 2016**

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|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| MONDAY: | No Mass |
| TUESDAY: | 11.00 am in Mercy Centre |
| WEDNESDAY: | No Mass |
| THURSDAY: | 9.30 am in Parish Church |
| FRIDAY: | 9.30 am in Parish Church |
| SATURDAY: | No Sacrament of Reconciliation |

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR C

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| READINGS - | First: | Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 |
| | Second: | Apocolypse 21:10-14 |
| | Gospel: | John 14:23-19 |

RECENT DEATH: Lorna Nihill.

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 9: J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

Next Week: .Team 10: J. Kennedy ©, P. Kennedy, L.Mullane.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

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|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| PARISH: | Envelopes: | \$ 759.40 |
| | Loose money: | \$ 300.00 |
| | Credit cards: | \$ 7,382.00 |
| | Direct debits: | \$ <u>545.00</u> |
| | | \$ 8,986.40 |
| PRESBYTERY: | | \$ 730.00 |

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. 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.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We farewell Fr Adrian who commences annual leave this week. At the same time we welcome Bishop Peter Connors who will be looking after the Parish during Fr Adrian's absence.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 27th April in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

BALLARAT Y.C.W. HARRIERS

70th Anniversary Reunion on Saturday, 30th April at the Mecure Inn, 613 Main Road, Ballarat. Cost \$70.00 @ head.

For tickets and enquiries please contact Natalie Anderson 0409 024 055; Kelly Dawe 0413 570 822 or Ian Higgins 0427 301 160.

CARITAS RECEIPTS

For Project Compassion have been posted to those who requested them. If you have not received yours please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

AMORIS LAETITIA

On Friday, 8th April 2016, Pope Francis published a new papal document called *Amoris Laetitia*, "The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family" at the Vatican in Rome. It is about marriage and family love. The papal document is also known as "Apostolic Exhortation".

It is available to read and download on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synod-2015/home>

If you don't have time to read all 256 pages of the Exhortation, you can access a summary on the bishops conference website.

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.

KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE

Monday, 16th May at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, with Archbishop Mark Coleridge on "From Wanderings to Journeying: Thoughts on a Synodal Church". See notice board for further information.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Is available for collection this weekend.