

**Reflection on the Gospel—Easter 6C
(John 14:23-29)**

-Veronica Lawson

Keeping one's word is a mark of honour in any society. To be asked to keep someone else's word, as in today's gospel reading, calls for a shift in our usual patterns of thinking and acting. In the prologue to the gospel, John has presented Jesus as the Word, the *Logos* who has been with God from the beginning. Jesus is the word of God in human form, the embodiment of God's communication with the world. Jesus also speaks of God's word. The disciples are to demonstrate their love for Jesus by keeping the word that he both embodies and articulates. In other words, they are to live as Jesus has lived and to be faithful to what has been taught in God's name. Each will thus become a dwelling place for the divine. The implications of this teaching are overwhelming. It seems to me that if we truly believed and "kept" the words of the Johannine Jesus, we might understand that God dwells with us, and so consistently treat each other with the utmost reverence and respect.

Jesus refers once more to his imminent departure. When he is no longer physically present, God's Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be with them. The Greek word translated as "advocate" carries a range of meanings. It literally means "one called alongside to help" whenever necessary. In other words, the disciples need not be troubled or afraid because they are never alone. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is always with them to defend them, to intercede for them, to comfort them, as well as keep them focused on all that Jesus has said to them. Earlier in the chapter of John's gospel, the Advocate is called the Spirit of Truth who remains with them and is actually in them. Only through the power of the Spirit will be disciples be empowered to "keep the word" of Jesus.

Once again, Jesus gifts his friends, this time with the gift of peace, a peace "that the world cannot give." In John's gospel, the "world" is first and foremost the tenting place of God's word: it is God's creation. Occasionally, as in this passage, it refers to whatever is opposed to Jesus as God's word. The gift of peace that Jesus brings is a peace that casts out fear. It carries all the weight of the Hebrew *shalom*: it brings total well-being and peace of mind. True peace comes from being centred in the Triune God. As Jesus leaves them, the proper stance for the disciples is joy in the knowledge that, although he is going away, he is also "coming to them" since the "Father" will send the Spirit to be with them. The gospel reading thus leave us to reflect on the unfathomable mystery of God.

BULLETIN for the SIXTH 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, 2nd MAY 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:	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

ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Acts 1.1-11
	Second:	Hebrews 9.24-28; 10.19-23
	Gospel:	Luke 24.46-53

RECENT DEATH: Garry Madigan, Bridget Wade, Robert Andrews (Wangaratta)

ANNIVERSARIES: Jack Barnett, Brian Walsh, Mollie Walsh, Lena Clohesy, Lena Braybrook.


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, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Christian Ashby.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: .**Team 11:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,760.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>407.00</u>
		\$ 2,467.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 806.00

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.

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the **Caring Group** will be the **AGM** and will be on Friday, 6th May in St Alipius Hall at 10.00 am. All welcome

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.

MEMORIAL MASS

Bishop Paul Bird invites priests and people to join him at the cathedral on Monday, 16th May at 12.05 pm to celebrate a Memorial Mass for Bishop Ronald Mulkearns.

BALLARAT INTERFAITH NETWORK (BIN)

Is planning a bus trip to The Great Stupa's remarkable light show in Bendigo on Saturday, 28th May. Early bookings are recommended. Enquiries to 0477 477 658.

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. 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>

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.

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteer mentors to support refugee students in local schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in June 2016. Contact Pauline Barton—Mercy Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information. Applications close on 7th June 2016.

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.