

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com



6th Sunday of Easter (C)
Sunday 1st May 2016



Scripture Reflection by Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

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 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 be faithful to what he has 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 to keep them focussed on all that Jesus has said to them. Earlier in this 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 the 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 leaves us to reflect on the unfathomable mystery of God.

Recent Deaths: Elma Brookes, Clarence Ferguson, Robert Strickland, Velma Thomson, James (Tony) Woodruff.

Anniversaries: Monica Connellan, Vincent Hartigan, Frank Moloney, Michael Neville, Thomas Neville, Ellen (Nell) O'Loughlin, Frank Stodolny, Sally Thain, Len Thomas, Patrick Thompson, Bill Verdoorn

Next week's readings: *Sunday 8th May 2016* *The Ascension of the Lord (C)*
Acts 1:1-11 Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6 Ephesians 1:17-23 Luke 24:46-53

Cuppa & Chat after Mass after 10.30am Mass today in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone welcome

CWL General Members meeting in the Presbytery 1.30pm, Wednesday May 4th, any interested ladies are welcome to join us. Enquiries Sheila Wilton 5342 9678

Apostolic Exhortation (papal document)

Pope Francis has published an Apostolic Exhortation on marriage and family life, in which he presents and develops the outcomes of the two Synods on this subject. The title of the Apostolic Exhortation is *Amoris Laetitia*, 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family'. The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation was published during a press conference at the Vatican on Friday 8th April 2016. You can download the text of the Exhortation below or read the summary document and Q&A provided by the Vatican. <https://www.catholic.org.au/synod-2015/blog>

Memorial Mass for Bishop Mulkearns

Bishop Paul Bird invites priests and people to join him at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on Monday, May 16 at 12.05 pm to celebrate a Memorial Mass for Bishop Ronald Mulkearns.

Mercy Connect Ballarat – Supporting refugee students in local schools.

Volunteer mentors needed. Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat 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 Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and application form. Applications close on June 7, 2016.

Ballarat Interfaith Network

Bus trip to The Great Stupa's remarkable light show, in Bendigo, Saturday May 28th, for more information or to book tickets phone 0477477658 or go to <https://goo.gl/IfGehl>

Catholic Theological College East Melbourne Annual Knox Lecture

On Monday May 16th at 7.30 pm Archbishop Mark Coleridge will present the annual Knox lecture: *“From Wandering to Journeying: Thoughts on a Synodal Church”*. Journey and pilgrimage are important themes in Scripture and throughout Christianity. They provide a background for considering Pope Francis’ election in 2013, his decision to convene two Synods in 2014 and 2015, his proclamation of the Year of Mercy in 2016 and his recent publication of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* – seeing all these as part of a process which is far from over. This gives a context for the recent proposal of the Australian Bishops to move towards a Plenary Council for Australia in 2020, seeing the preparation for the Council, its celebration and implementation as part of the same process, which seeks to make the Church more genuinely synodal in the way foreseen by Vatican II and treated more explicitly by Pope Francis. Catholic Leadership Centre East Melbourne RSVP: Wednesday 11 May jill.allen@ctc.edu.au 9412 3304.

menALIVE Men’s Weekend - Hamilton

The purpose of menALIVE is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God, and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church. St Mary’s Parish Hamilton is hosting a menALIVE weekend on July 30 & 31, 2016. Contact John Hockey 0439 319 823 manager@stmaryshamilton.org.au Pasquale Mammone (W/bool) 0438 247 765, pasquale_mammone@yahoo.com.au The weekend commences Saturday at 8:30am and concludes at 1:30pm on Sunday. Billed accommodation will be available. More information can be found at www.stmaryshamilton.org.au Online Bookings www.trybooking.com.au/KNVH

Council for Australian Catholic Women’s Colloquium 2016

The CACW Colloquium will be held this year on September 17 & 18 at Mary Mackillop Place in North Sydney. The Colloquium theme, Women as Witnesses to the Joy of the Gospel will set the scene for theological and pastoral reflection on Pope Francis’ call to “create still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 103). The keynote addresses and workshops will examine this theme and consider the issues facing women in the family, women in the Church and women in society. Expressions of Interest can be registered on the Colloquium web-site www.cacwcolloquium.org.au

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity *Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord* – May 8-15

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held each year in the week leading up to the Feast of Pentecost. All are invited to Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm in the following Churches in Ballarat
Tuesday May 10th at St John's Lutheran Church Doveton St,
Wednesday May 11th at St Patrick's Cathedral
Thursday May 12th at Uniting Church Dana St
Friday May 13th at Christ Church Anglican Cathedral
Each of the Churches will use the resources prepared by the National Council of Churches

Greta Bradman live in Concert

My hero, live in concert, Friday 6th May at 7.00pm, St Patrick's Cathedral, Tickets \$45, Concession \$40 + booking fee. To book visit www.gretabradman.com or call 1300 762 545

Alpha

This week 16 participants commenced the Alpha adult formation program. The first week focussed on ***Is there more to life than this?*** Comments written by the participants for this newsletter

- *A great opportunity to listen to others and learn from others*
- *Thought provoking*
- *Very interesting and has sparked my curiosity to learn more about my faith*
- *Brought up burning questions on faith, spirituality in a challenging manner*
- *I was very curious to know more*
- *I enjoyed it because there was no pressure, we can express what we think*
- *Just what I need on my faith journey. A gift I am grateful to receive*
- *Bringing Christ is a refreshing and challenging way*
- *Remembering that God loves me unconditionally*

Alpha continues next week with the focus **Who Is Jesus?** Held in the smaller hall at the Cathedral commencing at 7.00 pm until 8.30 pm. All parishioners and friends are welcome!

Collections Envelopes \$1,961.10 Parish Loose \$320.00 Presbytery \$1,796.35

Counters 8th May Team 1 Next week team 2

Parish Office hours Monday - Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Phone 5331 2933



ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Clergy Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu SDB
Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer Philip Westbrook
Family Ministry Anita Houlihan, Hospital Pastoral Care, Kaye Stringer
Principals St Patrick's Primary Mark Hogbin, St Thomas More Rosa Tocchet

Cathedral Parish Masses	May 7 th /8 th	Skipton	Beaufort	Snake Valley		
6.30 pm Vigil,	8.00 am,	10.30 am,	5.00 pm	7.30 pm	8.30am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05pm Cathedral			
Tuesday	No Mass Redan	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Wednesday	9.30am Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Thursday	9.30am Redan	11.30 am St John of God	12.05pm Cathedral	
Friday	9.30am Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral	1.30 pm Benediction	
Saturday	10.00am Cathedral			
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Friday	11.00 am,	Saturday	11.30 am