

Reflection on the Gospel-Pentecost Sunday Year C (John 20:19-23)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the harvesting of the first sheaf. When the Jerusalem temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. The Jews of the first century, including Christian Jews, celebrated the great pilgrimage feast of Pentecost. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people.

In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received the Law in their own tongues. In other words, the dispersion and division created by the hubris of those who built the Tower of Babel is symbolically reversed in this pouring out of God's Spirit.

For the content of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The risen Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we offer each other at every Eucharistic celebration. He sends them on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain".

To seize hold of evil-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, amnesty only exacerbates the problems. Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance, and of our capacity to deal with or "seize hold of" the sins of the perpetrators of violence and abuse in our Church and in our world.

BULLETIN for PENTECOST SUNDAY, 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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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 16th 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

TRINITY SUNDAY, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Prov 8:22-31
	Second:	Romans 5:1-5
	Gospel:	John 16:12-15

RECENT DEATHS: Bryan Kelly, Kay Judd (Mt Gambier).

ANNIVERSARIES: Pat Smith, Mary Hogan, Bernard Blood, Michael Curran, Robert Casey, Francis Roach, Owen Callaghan.

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 12:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

Next Week: .**Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	913.00
	Loose money:	\$	300.00
	Direct debits:	\$	<u>947.00</u>
			\$ 2,160.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$	852.00

OLHC PARISH COORDINATOR VACANCY

OLHC Parish Wendouree invites applications for the part-time position of Parish Coordinator (12 hours per week). From Monday, 16th May a role description and application form can be accessed on the Diocesan Web-site:

<http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/> search Employment or Wendouree Parish.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

A vigil for the death of Omid and the critically ill Hodan and other desperate innocent asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru will be held on Tuesday, 17th May from 5.30 - 6 pm on the medium strip opposite the Ballarat Town Hall. All welcome. Please bring a candle and ask your friends to join you. For more information call Cath: 0437 185238 or email grandmothersballarat@gmail.com

WALK-4-ONE LUNCH

St Michael's Parish, Bungaree presents "Walk-4-One" lunch with guest speaker, Sam Clear, on Sunday 19th June. Sam, a young Tasmanian, pledged himself to a mission: he would walk around the world in an effort to urge and inspire and Christians to unite. Tickets available from Amanda Elliott. Ph: 0427 713 064 or email: amanda@rumerz.com.au

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.

MEMORIAL MASS

The proposal to offer a Memorial Mass for Bishop Mulkearns has been reconsidered in the light of the level of distress that this proposal has prompted. A public gathering for Mass in an environment of protest would raise concerns for public safety, exacerbate the pain and suffering of victim survivors and compromise the occasion as one of prayer. The Mass for Bishop Mulkearns was proposed in line with the Catholic practice of prayer for those who have died. However, the adverse reaction to the proposal must be listened to and the concerns heeded, so Mass will not proceed.

GIVE THEM PEACE

On Monday, 16th May you are invited to Queen Victoria Square (opposite Town Hall) at 10.00 am to support the Ballarat City Council and Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees with their gathering to back up the Tamil family in their daily trauma and the threat of deportation. Morning tea will follow in the Town Hall. Speaker: Deputy Mayor Belinda Coates.

RIGHT TO LIFE

You are invited to an invigorating Life Hike on Thursday 26th—Saturday 28th May with Right to Life Australia to raise money to protect the unborn child. This year's Hike is in the majestic Grampians, Victoria. For more info www.righttolife.com.au or phone 9385 0111. See brochures on notice board.

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.

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.