

Gospel Reflection-10th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C (Luke 7:11-17)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Liberation or release for the most marginalised is at the heart of the mission of the Lukan Jesus. At the beginning of his ministry, we find him in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth, reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and appropriating to himself and to his mission the words of the prophet. He knows that the Spirit of God is upon him and that God has anointed him to bring good news to the destitute and release to the shattered (Luke 4:16-20). As the gospel narrative unfolds, we hear story after story of Jesus bringing good news for the destitute and release for the shattered.

In today's gospel passage, he encounters a funeral cortege at the gates of Nain. He is said to be moved with compassion (*esplanchnisthē*) for the plight of a widow who is shattered and under threat of a life of destitution. Women who lacked the protection of a husband or adult son were among the most destitute in first century Palestine. The unnamed woman of our story has already suffered the loss of her husband. She now grieves for the loss of her adult son. For a widow to lose her only son was nothing short of shattering. She would be entirely dependent on the goodwill of neighbours and friends and whatever extended family she may have had. Jesus knows that the death of her son has made this woman even more dependent and vulnerable than she had been made by her husband's death.

Nain was a tiny village in the Valley of Jezreel in the southern part of Galilee. As in every town, the gate would have been the place where legal cases were determined and justice was delivered. Now, at the gate of this town, Jesus of Nazareth brings both mercy and justice. He feels the pain of the widow in his own being and responds by restoring life, not only to the young man, but to his mother, to the extended family and to the grieving village community. Like this young man, Jesus is the only son of a woman who had possibly been widowed by the time he began his public ministry. His mother is to know the same pain of loss as her unnamed "sister" in Nain.

The sight of the funeral procession and the tears of the woman elicit the compassion of Jesus. The verb "to have compassion" (*splanchnizein*) denotes a deeply felt response in the depths of a person's being. It implies not just an emotional response, but action for mercy and justice. Tears will function in next week's gospel reading as an instrument of hospitality. In this story, tears and touch bring life to a son who was lost and restore life to a community and to a family within that community.

BULLETIN for THE 10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 6th JUNE 2016

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| 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: | Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am |

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

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| READINGS - | First: | 2 Samuel 12:7-10.13 |
| | Second: | Galatians 2:16.19-21 |
| | Gospel: | Luke 7:36-8:3 |

RECENT DEATHS: Ken Ford, Mandy Fellows.

ANNIVERSARIES: Francis, Isabel & William Murphy, Moira Lund, Leo Tuddenham.

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, Tom Ballinger.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.

Next Week: .**Team 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

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|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| PARISH: | Envelopes: | \$ 1,210.30 |
| | Loose money: | \$ 300.00 |
| | Direct debits: | \$ <u>565.00</u> |
| | | \$ 2,075.30 |
| PRESBYTERY: | | \$ 883.00 |

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mary Barnett who turns 100 this Wednesday. We wish Mary a very Happy Birthday and thank her for her commitment and example to the Parish.

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.

ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER

Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Please come along and hear how former child soldier from South Sudan, Isaac Moses, a Ballarat resident has risen from the trauma of war and displacement, to become an Australian citizen and student of Social Work at Federation University.

Wednesday, 22nd June at 12.30, Nazareth House Hall, Mill St, Ballarat. Entry \$20. Conc. \$15. Cake stall and competitions.

All welcome - especially children. Enquiries - Carmel: 5332 2103 or 0401 175 045; annekav123@yahoo.co.uk or

http://www.parramattamercy.org.au/images/logos/how_logo.jpg

See Notice Board.

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.

PILGRIMAGE

Magi Pilgrimages, a Catholic company, often pilgrimages, set or customised to suit wants and needs, to Israel, Europe and India. For further information please contact Alyssa - Wednesday or Thursday only on 8562 2246 or 0422 215 2246 or info@magiholidays.com.au

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 8th June in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

ORGAN RECITAL

All are welcome to attend an organ recital by Christopher Cook at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne on Saturday, 11th June at 5.00 - 5.45 pm. See Notice Board.

PRE-ELECTION FORUM—FEDERAL ELECTION 2nd JULY, 2016

You are invited to attend a pre-election forum on Monday, 20th June 2016 from 6.00 pm—7.45 pm at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church, cnr Dana & Lydiard St Sth, Ballarat. This is an opportunity to hear the viewpoints of the Candidates for Ballarat on issues for a just society, and to ask them your questions

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