

**Reflection on the Gospel-Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
(Luke 23:35-43)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Sadly, there have always been those who scoff at others or make fun of them, generally because they themselves feel threatened in some way. Those who suffer such bullying behaviour often feel powerless and demeaned. There may be some comfort for such people in today's gospel. We find here a serious case of bullying and two dignified responses that undermine the destructive power of the bullies.

The first response is that of Jesus who refuses to retaliate when the soldiers mock him or when another convicted criminal ("one of the criminals hanging there") derides him. Another dignified response comes from "the other" criminal. This man has the insight to recognise that Jesus is innocent. He also has the courage to challenge the injustice of what is going on around him. Having offered his challenge, he then turns to Jesus and addresses him by name: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." His request reveals his faith in Jesus as the human face of God. It also reveals his knowledge of Jesus' mission, first announced in Galilee: "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God"

Jesus points to God and God's reign or empire. Jesus' criminal companion points to the reign or empire of Jesus. The reign of God and the reign of Jesus are one and the same. In turning to Jesus and putting his request, this criminal becomes a disciple and receives the assurance of a share in Jesus' life with God: "Today you will be with me..." "Jesus, remember me" is a fitting prayer in the face of all life's struggles. It is a prayer for mercy. Next time we sing these words or pray them in our hearts, we might spare a thought for the one who first uttered them, a convicted Jewish criminal who had the courage to rise above his own suffering and challenge the unjust oppression of an innocent neighbour. Like Jesus, he was and continues to be an instrument of God's reign. His capacity to challenge the injustice of Jesus' execution might be a source of inspiration for us as we struggle to find mercy and justice for the Earth as well as for the innocent ones who seek asylum in our midst only to find themselves subjected to the torture of exile and hopelessness.

The title of today's feast reminds us of the boundless nature of God's rule or reign: we celebrate Christ Jesus as ruler of the universe, of all that is and of all that will be. As our understanding of the universe expands, we find ourselves caught up in the ever creative and saving presence of a merciful God. This feast might serve as a reminder that every year needs to become a year of mercy and of justice.

BULLETIN FOR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING, 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, 21st NOVEMBER 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

READINGS -	First:	Isaiah 2:1-5
	Second:	Romans 13:11-14
	Gospel:	Matthew 24:37-44

RECENT DEATH: Patricia Gersch.

ANNIVERSARIES: Phillip McGarry, Andrew Lund, Alex Forbes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Peter Clohesy, Kaye Tuddenham, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Andrew Cartledge.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, C. Napoli

Next Week: **Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,132.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ 1,005.00
		\$ 2,437.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,081.00

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 23rd November in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

ANOINTING MASS

Will be held on Thursday, 6th December at 2.00 pm in St Alipius Church. Following Mass afternoon tea will be served in the Hall. A plate would be appreciated. Anyone who needs transport is asked to contact any member of the Caring Group.

“GOSPEL IN THE GARDEN”

Sunday, 20th November at 2.00 pm. Funds raised will assist local asylum seekers and their families. Fun, music singing and entertainment for all. Entrance \$20.00. Children free.

Enquiries to Carmel 0401 175 045 or email annekav123@yahoo.co.uk.

2017 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

An information evening for those interested in undertaking a two week pilgrimage to the Holy land (Israel and Jordan) with Fr Justin in June 2017 are invited to gather in the smaller hall at the Cathedral on Thursday 24th November from 5.30—7.00 pm. The pilgrimage is being conducted in conjunction with Leonie Spencer from Lifestyle Travel, Ballarat. Expressions of interest can be directed to Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong St Nth. Ph 5331 8277 or info@lifestyletravel.com.au

VISITATION TO THE HOMES

As there is a need for visitation to the homebound with Holy Communion, anyone who is prepared to undertake this important ministry is asked to contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

Weekly meetings will commence 10.00 am Thursday, 24th November in the Meeting Room of St Alipius Church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our annual Christmas Appeal. We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish as it enables us to continue our assistance to those in need in the local area.

We share with you the following facts to give an insight into the need that exists in our state. In the last financial year the Society distributed support to the value of \$11.6 million across Victoria. This is an increase of over \$1 million on the previous year.

Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall. All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Study Tour or Pilgrimage: “The Experiences of Catholic Culture”
21st September—21st October 2017 of Ireland and England, Germany and Italy.

Details on College website at www.ctc.edu.au/studytours

Information Session: Thursday 24th November 4.00—6.00 pm

R.S.V.P. Tuesday 22nd November to:

Jenny Delahunt T: 9412 3314 E: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au

MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT

Supporting refugee and asylum seeker students in local schools

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee and asylum seeker students in Ballarat schools through the 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 February 2017. Contact Paulene Barton—Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email mercyconnect@gmail.com for information and an application form. Applications close on 2nd February 2017.

PARISH RECORDS

If you are new to the Parish and/or have not provided details you are invited to complete a Census Card and return to the Parish Office. The cards are located in the church foyer.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Would the user of Env No 139 please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611 (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday)