

Reflection on the Gospel- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 4:12-23) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of the gospel readings this year will be from the gospel of Matthew. As with any story, it is probably best to read it from beginning to end over a few days, attending to all the elements in the story. Elaine Wainwright's new eco-rhetorical commentary on Matthew's gospel invites us to read with attention to habitat as well as to the human and the holy. The invitation to us as readers is to enter into the drama with all its elements. We need to realise that what we bring to the text will inform our reading of the text. What we notice will depend on our own social and cultural contexts and on our capacity to bring our particular interpretive stance into dialogue with the worlds that inhabit the text. While the main character in the story is Jesus, there are other characters and character groups, including other-than-human characters.

In the passage selected for today, the Matthean Jesus makes his appearance as a great light that has arisen in Galilee of the Gentiles. He is light for a people who have lived in darkness and the shadow of death and oppression. In the context of Roman imperial rule, Jesus offers hope of an alternative reign. We might focus on the gift of light. Without an appreciation of light itself we cannot really understand this image.

Jesus invites his hearers to expand their horizons, to "repent" for the empire or kin-dom "of the heavens" has come near. He then calls four fishermen to follow him, to join him on his mission of proclaiming the empire or reign "of the heavens". The verb "to follow" is an invitation to live out in their lives/our lives the pattern of Jesus' life. They "immediately" leave their boat and their father and follow him. Later in the story we find they still have their boat, an indication that, at some levels, the story is to be read symbolically. At times we need to distance ourselves from family expectations for the sake of the gospel. At times we have to decentre our material possessions even while we affirm the goodness of their materiality and their significance for the work of the mission.

One might get the impression that the alternative community that Jesus forms around him is all male. This impression is dispelled a few verses later when we learn that "great crowds followed him" (4:25). In Matthew 18, there is specific mention of children and, towards the end of the gospel, we find that women have "followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him" (27:55). There is a far more extended group around Jesus than today's reading might suggest. Women, men, and children, we are all invited to turn our lives around and to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life.

BULLETIN FOR THE 3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A



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, 23rd JANUARY 2017

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
THURSDAY:	No Mass
FRIDAY:	No Mass
SATURDAY:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS -	First:	Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
	Second:	1 Corinthians 1:26-31
	Gospel:	Matthew 5:1-12

RECENT DEATH: David Torpy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Pat Molloy.

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:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,470.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Cards:	\$ 7,790.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>295.00</u>
		\$ 9,355.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 839.00

CHILD SAFETY IN OUR PARISH

Notices, relating to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children in our care, are on display in the church foyers for your information.

DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS

Diocesan Website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The website contains current news and information on the diocese and parishes and also a section for members to access resources relevant to diocesan ministries.

e-News: e-News is available to all members of the diocese and those associated 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.

Our Diocesan Community: ODC is published three times a year and delivered to parishes for distribution to those in the diocese. This magazine contains the good news stories of events and people in the diocese. You are welcome to submit items for publication to odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au and again, news items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of parishes and schools of the diocese and include photos where possible.

PALMS ENCOUNTER

Is an intimate, immersive, inter cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding. Palms long-term volunteers guide the Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor.

Call Roger on 02 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/Encounters for more Information.

KEEP THIS DAY FREE

Sunday, 22nd January 2017—a farewell for Fr Adrian in the Parish Hall at **midday** (following the 10.30 am Mass). Tea & coffee will be provided. Please bring a plate and any other refreshments you may require.

MUSIC AT THE BREWERY

Sunday, 29th January 2016. In aid of local asylum seekers.

Live, acoustic music in the pleasant environment of the old Buninyong Brewery (107 Yuille St, overlooking the lake). \$15.00 includes afternoon tea.

For more information: Merle Hathaway—0419 324 042 or merle.hathawaw@bigpond.com

SAPNEWS

Additional copies of SAPNEWS are available this weekend if you missed out last weekend.

LITURGY ROSTERS

St Alipius liturgy rosters are available for collection this weekend.

MERCY ASSOCIATES FUNDRAISER

A big thank you to the Sisters of Mercy, the Mercy Associates and parishioners who supported our recent Catherine's Cuppa Christmas Celebrations fundraiser event—held at the Mercy Convent, Victoria Street, Ballarat in December. We had a lovely evening and raised \$1,100 on the night, which we were very pleased with.

This money will be given to the Sisters of Mercy to provide funds for Mercy Works projects both locally and overseas.

Thank you very much to our Mercy Associate sponsors who donated prizes and gave generously of their time in organising this event—and also to Wen and Ware gift shop and UFS Dispensary (Bridge Mall).

Ursula Diamond-Keith (Mercy Associate)

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.