

**Reflection on the Gospel-Second Sunday of Lent Year A
(Matthew 17:1-9)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Last week's gospel invited us into a confronting habitat, namely the wilderness. This week, we follow Jesus and three of his companions to a mountain and eventually a cloud-covered mountain. Both wilderness and mountain link Matthew's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites of old. Wilderness and mountain also remind us that God's creation is the locus of wonder and mystery. The world we inhabit has an integrity of its own that has not always been acknowledged in our tradition. It is, in a very real sense, God's dwelling place. It is, in addition, the place of human-divine encounter and the place of human encounter with the other-than-human material world. Attention to habitat can lead us to a clearer understanding of our own place in the scheme of things and to ever deeper understandings of our relationship with God

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. Jesus struggles with that realisation in the wilderness at the outset of his ministry. On the mountain top, he comes to terms with what that involves. The disciples see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to a mission that elicits hostility. That is not, however, the way of discipleship. Rather, Peter and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God, as are all who follow in the way of discipleship.

Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is followed by a reminder that Jesus is soon to meet a violent death (17:23). Jesus' companions get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence that oppose God's reign. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the moments of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of being faithful to the gospel mission of justice and compassion with all its painful demands.

BULLETIN FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 13th MARCH 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	No Mass
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

READINGS -	First:	Exodus 17:3-7
	Second:	Romans 5:1-2.5-8
	Gospel:	John 4:5-42

RECENT DEATH: Rupert (Rupe) McKenna.

ANNIVERSARIES: Pat Pearce, Harry & Elsie Lavery, Barry Davies, Bridget Curran, Susan Purcell, Nancy Murphy, Ellen Murphy, Gerard Roach, Michael Harrison.

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, Fiona Dickinson.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

Next Week: **Team 11:** E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	903.80
	Loose money:	\$	300.00
	Direct debits:	\$	<u>1,245.00</u>
		\$	2,448.80

PRESBYTERY:		\$	949.00
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LENTEN REFLECTION

Each Thursday in the **Church Meeting Room** from 10.00—11.00 am.
The opportunity is offered to join others and share in reflection on the Sunday Gospels throughout Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At **Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong**, each Wednesday evening during Lent at 7.00 pm.
All welcome.

CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS—2017

Singers and musicians are invited to join the music group which is being formed for this Mass on Monday, 10th April, 2017. Please contact Julie Boyd at the Pastoral Ministry Office or register your interest at: julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au

AINARO TIMOR-LESTE FUNDRAISING BUSH DANCE

Saturday, 25th March at Donegan's Farm, Gordon from 6.30—11.00 pm.
Proceeds to Health Scholarship Fund.
Enquiries to: Desley 0429 075 173 or Barry 0409 458 053.
See Notice Board for further information.

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE PARTY

Friday, 17th March at 12.00 pm in the Nazareth House Hall. All welcome.

REFUGEE DADS AND KIDS WEEKEND

24th—26th March 2017 at the YMCA Camp, Phillip Island.
See Notice Board for details.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Venue: Mercy Gathering room, Gent Street, Ballarat East.

Dates: 16th March; 27th April; 18th May; 22nd June; 20th July.

Sr Veronica Lawson and Fr Barry Ryan announce five two-hour sessions on the meaning of faith commitment in the contemporary world.

Simply contact Sr Veronica by email (veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au) or by phone (0408 392 297) with any enquiries.

Donation to cover the cost is \$20.00. Note that this is a new course, not a repeat of either the 2015 or the 2016 sessions.

ALTAR SERVERS—Training Update

If you are a current altar server, or interested in becoming one, this training session is for you.

What: Training Update session

When: 3.45 pm Tuesday, 14th March

Where: St Alipius Church

An afternoon fruit platter will be provided.

RSVP or contact Rachel for any further information. Email: rachelallan17@gmail.com

Note: Altar Servers should have celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist.

There will be further training later in the year.

MASS OF THE OILS, MONDAY, 10th APRIL

Will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30 pm. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2017—the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include Ushers, Readers, Oil Bearers, Presentation of the Gifts, Collection of the Oils, Musicians and Singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office on 5337 7159 or pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

FOUND

A "Sempre" wrist watch, and a Mercy Associate badge. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Would the user of Env No 92 please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611 as we do not know who you are.