

Reflection on the Gospel-Passion Sunday Year A

(Matthew 26:14-27:66) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Capital punishment is abhorrent to most of us, particularly when a just person dies for specious reasons or to political ends. Public executions of convicted criminals were part of life in the ancient Roman Empire. That's what confronts us in today's gospel, although the gospel writers pay little attention to the details of the death and suffering of Jesus. They are much more interested in the meaning of these events.

The Romans execute Jesus outside Jerusalem when the city is filled with Jewish pilgrims who have come there for the Passover festival. For Jesus' friends and followers, every subsequent Passover is celebrated in the light of his death by crucifixion. They share their memories and reflect on the meaning of his death in the light of their sacred traditions. Every element of the Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of their ancestors from slavery, resonates with echoes of the experience of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. It is not surprising, then, that the final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of his story to be committed to writing.

Though Matthew draws much of his material from Mark, he fashions the tradition into a new narrative and adds several distinctive features. "To fulfil all righteousness" is Jesus' stated mission (3:15). He has declared "blessed" those who suffer for the sake of righteousness [justice]" (5:10-12). He now embodies his own teaching as the just or righteous one, the one in right relationship with God. The prayer on his lips as he faces death (Psalm 22) is that of the suffering just Israelite who is utterly faithful to his mission and whose trust in God never fails.

There are hints that Jesus' death is not the end, but rather the beginning of the new age of God's empire, a compassionate alternative to the brutality of Rome. In response to the high priest Caiaphas, Jesus points beyond death to his post-resurrection life "at the right hand of power..." Extraordinary signs follow his death: the tearing of the temple curtain; the trembling of the earth; the recognition of the Roman centurion and his companions that this man is of God; and finally, the opening of the graves and appearance of the dead in anticipation of the final resurrection. The story offers the hope of reversal to all who witness the events surrounding Jesus' death. It offers hope to the women who have followed him all the way from Galilee and "ministered to him". It offers hope to the male disciples who have deserted or denied him, to faithful disciples like Joseph of Arimathea, and even to his Roman executioners.

BULLETIN FOR PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY, 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, 9th APRIL 2017

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	10.30 am Funeral Mass.
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
HOLY THURSDAY:	7.00 pm in Parish Church
GOOD FRIDAY:	3.00 pm in Parish Church
EASTER SATURDAY VIGIL:	7.00 pm in Parish Church
EASTER SUNDAY:	9.00 am in Parish Church 10.30 am in Ss Peter & Paul's, B'yong

READINGS - RESURRECTION OF THE LORD—EASTER SUNDAY

First:	Acts 10:34, 37-43
Second:	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel:	John 20:1-9

RECENT DEATH: Maureen Tuddenham.

ANNIVERSARIES: Isabel Britt, Jim & Una Murphy, Maureen Hunt, Bridget Casey, Vic Jones, Annie Roach, Maria Donday, Jane Roach, Sarah Walker.

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

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,725.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,600.00</u>
		\$ 3,625.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 790.00

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 12th April at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

The Combined Churches of Buninyong invite you to join in their annual commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus.

The readings and procession commence from the front of the Buninyong Town Hall at 8.30 am, and conclude at the labyrinth in the grounds of the Uniting Church shortly after 9.00 am

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The Vatican has announced that this year's collection will benefit Christian communities in the Holy Land.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

To all who provided olive branches for our Palm Sunday celebration this weekend.
Your ready willingness to assist was very much appreciated

NAZARETH HOUSE BALLARAT APARTMENTS

The new one bed apartments are near completion at Nazareth house. Eight have been sold and there are still two available. Please contact Nazareth house Reception for an appointment to view the apartments Monday to Friday 9.00 am—4.00 pm.

LIVING WITH CHRIST—HOLY WEEK

The honour of your presence is requested for the Church's solemn commemoration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday of Holy Week—Mass of the Oils

THE SACRED TRIDIUM

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

HOLY WEEK/EASTER MINISTRIES

Please place your name on the sheets on the board near the Piety Stall if you are able to assist with the following:

- Procession of Oils
- Washing of Feet
- Procession of Gifts
- Eucharist

INNERPEACE IN DIVINE LOVE

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

24 April—20 May 2017

The First Spiritual exercises (FSE) are a set of prayer exercises based on Ignatian Spirituality and structured in a retreat in daily life, over four weeks. These exercises are easy to follow and no qualifications are required, just the desire, generosity and faith to be open to God. There will need to be a commitment to prayer at home and to meet weekly in a small group with a guide. The exercises allow you to continue your usual round of going to and from work and caring for the family or whatever is then shape of your busy life. The inner peace that comes with this is utterly unmistakable for any

Experience. A Jesuit Tertian priest, Fr Robbie Sian from Sebu (in the Philippines) together with Doreen Roache will be leading this retreat which is open to all. See Notice Board for more information and application forms (to be completed by 17th April). If you have any queries please contact Doreen on 0417 117 382.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Statements and envelopes are available for collection this weekend.

DIOCESAN RESOURCE CENTRE

Is a service for the total faith formation of parishes and schools. Books, videos, DVDs & CDs are available for borrowing. Items can be borrowed and returned through the post if required. Online catalogue: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au Services & Agencies Resource Centre