

Reflection on the Gospel-Easter Sunday Year A

(Matthew 28:1-10) -Veronica Lawson RSM

After death, Jesus is cared for by a faith-filled man in the presence of two faith-filled women. These three people are fearless in the face of possible reprisals for their support of a "political criminal". Joseph, who comes from Arimathea, a little village just north of Jerusalem, cares for Jesus out of his personal wealth, providing a clean linen cloth and his own newly rock-carved tomb. With his own hands, he performs the burial ritual, lays Jesus' body in the tomb, and rolls the stone into place. The women disciples who witness the closing of the tomb are both named Mary. One is from Magdala, centre of a fish-salting industry by the Sea of Galilee, and the other is the mother of two male disciples. These women have contributed their goods and services to Jesus over the long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

The two women set out at dawn 'to see the tomb'. This seems a little strange until we realise that they are once again functioning as witnesses, this time to the dramatic opening of the tomb and the appearance of God's interpretive messenger. 'Seeing' becomes a metaphor for insight. In the earthquake phenomenon and the allusion to lightning, there are echoes of other great moments of God's appearing to Israel, such as the encounter with Moses and the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai.

The two Marys are the first to learn the news of Jesus' resurrection. They are also the first to be commissioned to proclaim it. The women "see" the place where he was laid. They obey the angel's command not to be afraid but to go quickly to the scattered disciples and inform them that the risen Jesus has gone before them to Galilee, the place of mission, where they too will "see" him. Resurrection life energises these faith-filled women disciples/apostles and negates the death-dealing power of the Roman Empire. Ironically, the Roman tomb guards become 'as though dead'.

As the women hurry away from the tomb, Jesus comes to meet them. He addresses them with the familiar greeting, *Chairete*, a greeting of joy. This is the first appearance of the resurrected One and it draws from the women a profoundly reverential response: taking hold of him, they fall down in worship, an action foreshadowed by the courageous but doubly marginalised Canaanite woman (15:25). Jesus reiterates the commission already delivered by the angel: not to be afraid and to let the men know what has happened. These same men will later be commissioned on the mountain top (Matthew 28:16-20). Often, the temptation is to stay on the mountain top instead of recognising the appearances of the Resurrected One on the open road of life and getting on with the mission.

BULLETIN FOR EASTER SUNDAY, YEAR A



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 16th APRIL 2017

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	10.00 am Funeral Mass - Sr M. Connelly 9.30 am in Parish Church
THURSDAY:	
FRIDAY:	11.00 am Funeral Mass - Sr M. Houlihan

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

READINGS	First:	Acts 2:42-47
	Second:	1 Peter 1:3-9
	Gospel:	John 19-31

RECENT DEATHS: Sr Maureen Connelly RSM, Sr Margaret Anne Houlihan RSM.

ANNIVERSARIES: Brian Edwards, Irene Shillito, Mary Murphy.

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 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,495.50
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>685.00</u>
		\$ 2,480.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 937.00

HAPPY EASTER

Peter, Jim, Margaret and Joan would like to wish our parishioners a very Happy and Holy Easter.

May it be a time of renewal and refreshment.

We have been delighted with the contribution of so many people to the Easter Celebrations and your ministries are very much appreciated.

Enjoy the Holiness of this season.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST

Jesus, I am seeking more meaning in my life.

I seek happiness and peace for myself and for my loved ones.

Up until now You have not played a big part in my life.

But little by little, as I look back over my life,

I see You have been calling me to Yourself.

Through all the events and people that have come into my life

I can see Your presence, Your guiding hand through it all.

Help me not to be afraid as I resolve to learn more about You and Your Church and make me more a part of Your life.

Amen

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.

Ph 5329 5100

EASTER DINNER PRAYER

(A grace before a meal)

Lord,

As we gather together as family and friends we invite you once again into our lives.

May the hope of your resurrection colour our days.

May the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives.

May the love you revealed to us shape our giving.

May the truth in your word guide our journeys.

May the joy in your kingdom fill our homes.

As we gather together under the banner of your life,

We thank you for all the wonderful food that we can now enjoy,

And celebrate your glorious resurrection.

Thank you Lord.

Amen

**INNER PEACE 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.

MASS OF THE OILS 2017

Thank you to all who attended and participated in the Mass of the oils last Monday evening. The Mass was a great celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat.

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