

**Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 2A
(John 20:19-31)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Not so long ago we used to speak of the Sundays 'after' Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays 'of' Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. As supporters of someone executed on a political charge, they had reason to be fearful. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his 'Father'. They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in the pursuit of justice and peace.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own first hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that those who hear in the first place are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears. Even those who do believe and trust often need time to take the gospel message on board.

While Christians continue to celebrate Easter, our Jewish sisters and brothers have been marking *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 27-28). We might join our prayers with theirs for the many who died at the hands of those who allowed their racial fears and prejudices to take unimaginable directions. We might also pray for the courage to challenge all forms of discrimination and shameful brutality in our own times and the strength to open our hearts and our homeland, without fear, to those who seek refuge among us.

BULLETIN FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, 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 APRIL 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
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 EASTER, YEAR A

READINGS	First:	Acts 2:14.22-23
	Second:	1 Peter 1: 17-21
	Gospel:	Luke 24:13-35

RECENT DEATHS: Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove—Fr Adrian's brother-in-law), Pat Morris, Fr Frank Madden.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bridget Wade.

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

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:	\$ 1,390.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Credit cards:	\$ 7,295.00
	Direct debits:	\$ 455.00
		\$ 9,440.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1301.50

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 26th April at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

To all who supported the Buninyong “Jam Session” which raised \$320.00 for Project Compassion.

Jan & Bob

ACQUIRING FAITH THROUGH DANCE

A 13th Century church dance that depicts death and resurrection, the gate of heaven and the entry into light from darkness will feature when Medieval Magic is staged at the Art Gallery, 40 Lydiard St Nth, at 2.30 pm this Sunday, 23rd April. Historic instruments and costumes will be used by the Early Music Consort, Rippon Lea Dancers and Ballarat’s Singers of the Black Book. Tickets \$25, concession and Gallery members \$20, family \$50 . Bookings 5320 5858.

ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

A global prayer event will be held from 5-7 May for people to participate wherever they are at the time by praying at least one rosary for an end to abortion. For more information and to register go to www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganisation.org

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Is available for collection this weekend.

MEDITATION

“The prayer of the heart introduces us to deep interior silence do that we learn to experience its power.

For that reason the prayer of the heart has to be always very simple, confined to the simplest acts and often making no use of words and no thoughts at all.”

Thomas Merlin

EARTH DAY

As we approach Earth Day Pope Francis asks us to, “live his Encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ - on Care for our Common Home”. For it is in Caring for Creation that we contribute to shaping the society in which we live and prepare for a better future of justice, peace, love and beauty.

**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.

If you have any queries please contact Doreen on 0417 117 382.

**MISSION CONFERENCE 2017 “ONE HEART MANY VOICES”
15-17 MAY**

Mission 2017: One heart many voices is for those who are inspired to strive creatively for justice, peace reconciliation and God’s mission of mercy. It is a unique opportunity to listen, converse and experience the many and diverse voices that are the expression of the one heart of mission. The conference will explore the Complexity and issues surrounding leadership, formation, theology and the practice of mission. For more information go to www.mohmv.com.au