

**Reflection on the Gospel - Easter 3A
(Luke 24:13-35)**

-Veronica Lawson, RSM

Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger or “foreigner” on the road of life. That seems to be a key element in today’s gospel passage from the well-known and well-loved Emmaus story. Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and possibly his wife) on Easter Day, on the road back from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus, a few kilometres away. On their journey, they encounter Jesus who has been raised. At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his violent death has blinded them to the significance of the women’s account of the empty tomb. It has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes.

Jesus engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts “burn” within them as he reveals to them the meaning of his death and resurrection in the light of their sacred scriptures. Yet still they fail to recognise the one whom they have described as “a prophet mighty in deed and word.” They invite him to share a meal with them and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the blessing and breaking of the bread they share with him. He disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that Jesus is alive and once more present to them, but in a new and transforming way.

Cleopas and partner go straight back to Jerusalem to share this good news with the other disciples. Now all the assembled disciples experience powerfully the presence of Jesus in their midst. They too pass over the women’s story; it is the appearance to Peter of the resurrected Jesus that is the ground of their new faith. As the story continues beyond today’s reading, we learn that the male disciples will also share a meal with him and he will open their minds to understand the scriptures. Everything will fall into place. The fear that has paralysed them will fall away. They will not only understand Jesus’ death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They will be “clothed with power from on high” to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery.

Extraordinary things can happen to those who are hospitable enough to “break bread” with “foreigners” in whom they do not immediately recognise God’s presence. If we open our hearts and our homes to those who seek a welcome on our shores, we might come to participate a little more deeply in the joy of the resurrection.

BULLETIN FOR THIRD 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, 1st MAY 2017**

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

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

READINGS	First:	Acts 2:14, 36-41
	Second:	1 Peter 1: 20-25
	Gospel:	John 10:1-10

RECENT DEATH: Norm Lewis.

ANNIVERSARIES: Derek Tigchelaar.

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, Audrey Clohesy.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

Next Week: **Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood. G. Duck.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,410.40
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Card:	\$ 200.00
	Direct debits:	\$ 365.00
		\$ 2,275.40

PRESBYTERY: \$ 795.00

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 5th May at 10.00 am in St Alipius Hall. All welcome.

ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER/FAMILY NIGHT

“Zootopia” screening Friday, 5th May at Grenville Hall, 1462 Buninyong-Mt Mercer Road, Grenville. Family film fundraiser for House of Welcome. The evening will commence from 5.30 pm with the screening at 6.30 pm. BYO beanbags, chairs provided. Kiosk with popcorn, drinks and snacks. Jeffrey Williams and family singing. Entry \$20 per family, \$7 single. Enquiries to Hayley on 0403 668 029.

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

PASTORAL LETTER TO CATHOLICS OF VICTORIA

Is available for collection this weekend.

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.

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

30th ANNIVERSARY OF EPISCOPOL ORDINATION

Mass to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Episcopol Ordination of Bishop Connors will be held on Sunday, 21st May at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat at 10.30 am. All welcome.

“LESSONS FROM THE LONG PADDOCK” ECONFERENCE

The Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is offering an econference online event called “Lessons From the Long Paddock” on Tuesday, 6th June, 2017. This econference opens the conversation for many people who are curious about what the experience of faith actually feels like in ordinary life. Participants engage with conversations which signpost essential spiritual markers relevant to knowledge about what leads into fuller humanity, Christian, Catholic and Australian life. This econference draws participants to seek Christ at the heart of human experience and nurtures a capacity to trust that individuals have all they need to begin the journey into constant conversion.

The econference has two keynote speakers, Bishop Columba Macbeth Green OSPPE and Fr Frank Brennan SJ, who will discuss Australian and Outback Spirituality. The workshops will be facilitated by Kate Englebrecth, Diocesan Director of Mission. For more information please contact Kate on 0420 309 689 or <http://www.wf.catholic.org.au>

MEMORIAL MASS

For the late Br Kevin Tuck will be held at St Mary’s Church, Colac at 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 9th May. Br Tuck was a former teacher at St Patrick’s College, and died in Ballarat on 3rd April 2017. The Memorial Mass is an opportunity for students, staff and parents, along with the wider community, to gather to pray for, and to remember Br Tuck.