

**Reflection on the Gospel - Easter 5A
(John 14:1-14)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

“Take from my heart all painful anxiety” is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is an ever present possibility: we deal with one problem and along comes another. When we don't have any serious worries in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having worries and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood (“be troubled”), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus points out the path to an untroubled heart: “Believe in God, believe also in me.” The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: “I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also”. In this context, Jesus makes three claims: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the whole work, has introduced the notion of the glorified Jesus as “full of grace and *truth*” and the bringer of “grace and *truth*”(1:14, 17). He is the *life* that is the light of all (1:4). As the gospel unfolds, we learn that he is the bread of *life*, even the resurrection and the *life*. His claim to be “the *way*” is foreshadowed in the parable of the door or the gate: “I am the gate of the sheepfold.”

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as “Father”. He speaks of their mutual indwelling. If Philip, his persistent questioner, does not believe this, then maybe he can believe on account of the “works” of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really just a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God - as next Sunday's gospel will tell us.

BULLETIN FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 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, 15th MAY 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
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

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

READINGS	First:	Acts 8: 5-8.14-17
	Second:	1 Peter 3:15-18
	Gospel:	John 14:15-21

RECENT DEATH: Mary Nolan (Donald) mother of Frank (Buninyong)

ANNIVERSARIES: Bryan Kelly, Mae Armstrong

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, Carmel Doherty, Tania Giles

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.

Next Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,278.90
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,335.00</u>
		\$ 2,913.90
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 862.00

CENTRALISED BAPTISM PREPARATION

Clergy, staff & Baptism coordinators from the Parishes of St Alipius Ballarat East, St Patrick's Cathedral, St Aloysius Redan, St James' Sebastopol, St Columba's Ballarat North and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree have been meeting to discuss the possibility of centralising the Baptism preparation process. It has been decided that there will be combined Baptism preparation sessions held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10.00 am & 7.00 pm for all families wishing to have their children, under the age of 7, baptised in the Ballarat area. This will begin in August. For the months of June and July preparation evenings will continue as normal in the St Alipius Parish. More information to come.

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

Offers low-cost opportunities for online and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. Registration for the May study cycle closes on 22nd May, 2017—or you can start in July or later in the year. See the details on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au then contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

PARISH APPOINTMENT

Fr Michael McKinnon has been appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Scared Heart Parish, Merbien, in addition to his responsibilities as Parish Priest of Mildura and Red Cliffs.

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

"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 Englebrect, Diocesan Director of Mission. For more information please contact Kate on 0420 309 689 or <http://www.wf.catholic.org.au>

"WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ASSOCIATE?"

The Ballarat Mercy Associates warmly welcome any interested women and men to a reflection session on, "What does it mean to be an Associate?" The session will run from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturday, May 20th 2017 and Sr Karon Donnellon rsm will be the speaker. The Venue will be the Gathering Space, Convent of Mercy, enter from Gent Street. A light lunch will be served. For catering purposes please advise of any allergies or dietary requirements by Monday, May 15 to 5332 8039 or 0439355826.

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.