

**Reflection on the Gospel- Pentecost Sunday Year A
(Acts 2:1-11; John 20:19-23)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God's Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The risen Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we offer each other at every Eucharistic celebration. He sends them on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain". To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem.

BULLETIN FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY, 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, 5th JUNE 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	2.00 pm Funeral Mass
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, YEAR A

READINGS	First:	Exodus 34:4-6.8-9
	Second:	2 Corinthians 13:11-13
	Gospel:	John 3:16-18

ANNIVERSARIES: Denise Mildren

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Tania Giles, Pauline Murphy.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 11: E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

Next Week: Team 1: L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 970.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits	\$ <u>355.00</u>
		\$ 1,635.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 778.00

WELCOME

To Bishop Peter Connors who will be our celebrant for the next two weekends.

POP UP SHOP FOR THE HOMELESS AND THOSE IN NEED

Firstly a huge ‘Thank you’ to those who continually pop items in the box at the rear of the church. There is always something to pick up and distribute. Toiletries, socks, undies... Although the ‘shop’ is only set up a few times a year help is given as required. WINTER is here again and the NEED is great. The shop will be set up over the weekend of July 8th –9th at the Trades Hall in Camp St. Everything is given free to the homeless or those in need. Items always in short supply and greatly needed are...

Toiletries... I have lots of individual packs made up but am very short of toothbrushes and deodorant. Also family sized items.. Shampoo, toothpaste.

Clothing... we are not taking donations of clothing other than socks and undies, beanies, gloves. If you have warm clothing please donate to Vinnies or another charity.

Food... We set up a small pantry but it empties very quickly. We try to make up meal packages. Eg...pasta, pasta sauce with cans of veggies makes a meal. Rice, cereal, soups, noodles, meal bases, long life milk. If you would like to make up a hamper of mixed items that would be great. Any fresh food can be delivered to the hall over the weekend.

If you would like more information or would like to help over the weekend please call me...Colleen 0419 504029.

GREETINGS FROM THE COMBINED CHURCHES OF BUNINYONG

A letter of welcome and greeting will be read, and a candle lit, at each of the churches of Buninyong on this Sunday as we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus’ disciples, and recognise that as present-day disciples we are also called to be his witnesses.

“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. For more information please contact Kate on 0420 309 689 or <http://www.wf.catholic.org.au>

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA is a process where people who are interested in becoming Catholic come together with members of the RCIA team to discuss their personal experiences which have drawn them to question and discover more about the Catholic faith. Those who choose to explore and seek full initiation into the Catholic Church continue through the process of *Enquiry* to the *Catechumenate* and then onto full membership into the Catholic Church. An invitation is extended to anyone interested in exploring the Catholic faith.

Please contact the parish office or Fr. Peter on 5332 6611.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our “TOGETHER WE CAN DO HEROIC THINGS” appeal. To give you some indication of the work of SVDP locally we share with you the following statistics. In the first quarter of this year the Society has distributed support to the value of \$154,563 within the Ballarat area. This is a 16% increase on last year’s figures. During this period we have experienced a 14% increase in the numbers of people seeking assistance. We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish as it enables us to continue our support for those in need. Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall.

All donations are used in the Ballarat area. Donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible, and receipts will be issued.

SOUP LUNCHEON - ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER – WED 21ST JUNE

The Annual Refugee week soup and sandwich luncheon will be held again at Nazareth House hall on Wednesday, 21st of June at 12.30. Didgeridoo and Acknowledgement of Country at 1.00 pm followed by asylum seeker presentations.