

**Reflection on the Gospel- Trinity Sunday Year A
(John 3:16-18)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

'She has gone to God and God is very near'. These are the words that some dear friends of mine chose for the cover of their mother's funeral booklet. Their choice of words demonstrates their faith in God of whom John writes in today's gospel. For them, as for us, God is not a distant God, but rather a God of communion, and a God in communion with the world: "God so loved the world..." John uses the term "world" here to refer to humanity in need of salvation. Jesus, "God's son", is the one through whom the world is saved.

Nothing in John's gospel should be read in isolation from the whole. Our passage forms part of Jesus' dialogue with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who recognizes that Jesus is "of God". Jesus leads Nicodemus from a basic and fairly literal understanding to new understandings about what it means to be in relationship with God. The need to be "born of the Spirit" is part of the conversation that forms the context for the three verses chosen for today's gospel. Trinitarian language pervades John's gospel and is present elsewhere in the Christian scriptures, almost certainly reflecting the incipient belief of the earliest communities in God who is one, as Jewish faith asserts, and at the same time three-in-one. This belief was to develop over the subsequent centuries into the doctrine of the Trinity which is at the very heart of Christian faith.

Perichoresis, a Greek term suggestive of dancing or of figures interweaving, is one of the earliest and probably one of the most striking images used to explain this Trinitarian life of God. The life that is in God is three and yet one in a totally harmonious dance of equals. The wonder is that we are invited to join the dance. Trinity Sunday is the day that we set aside to celebrate who God is in Godself and who God is in relation to the whole of creation. We celebrate the nearness of the Triune God who draws us as participants into the dance of life and love. We hear later in John's gospel that the Spirit of truth guides us "into all the truth". We continue to listen to the Spirit so that we might understand more fully the "things that are to come" and the relatedness we are called to live. The dance of Trinitarian love casts out hatred and enmity and wanton destruction. It calls us to live in harmony with one another and with all of God's creation.

BULLETIN FOR TRINITY 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, 12th JUNE 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
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

**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST,
(CORPUS CHRISTI)**

READINGS	First:	Deuteronomy: 8 2-3. 14-16
	Second:	1 Corinthians 10:16-17
	Gospel:	John 6: 51-58

RECENT DEATH: Verna Evans

ANNIVERSARIES: Ernie Auchettl, Rosalie Barry, Leo Tuddenham, Bill Murphy.

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. Luke Taylor.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: **Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 838.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits	\$ <u>1190.00</u>
		\$ 2,328.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 847.00

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.

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. 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 please call me...Colleen 0419 504029.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday 14th of June at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent St.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our "TOGETHER WE CAN DO HEROIC THINGS" appeal. 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 St Alipius Piety Stall and at Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong. Please hand your envelopes in at collection time, or post to the Box Hill address if paying by credit card. 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

The Annual Refugee week soup and sandwich luncheon will be held at Nazareth House hall on **Wednesday, 21st of June at 12.30**. Entry \$20. Conc. \$15
Contact - 0401 175045.

SPECIAL MINISTERS

Fr Peter would like to have a gathering of existing and new Special Ministers on Tuesday, 25th July at either 2.00 pm or 7.00 pm in St Alipius Hall. He would encourage as many as possible for the vigil and morning Mass at St Alipius and at Ss Peter & Paul, Buninyong.

Please see sheets on the notice board for you to indicate your interest or to nominate someone. Being nominated or putting forward a name does not commit you to being a Special Minister, initially just to learn and be informed. Those nominated can decide after this. Alternatively, you may contact the Parish office on 5332 6611 with details.

AN INVITATION

To the parishioners of Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong to join with the Buninyong Sub-Branch of the RSL on **Saturday, 1st July** in the historic community march and ceremonies associated with the rededication of the Buninyong World War 1 Avenue of Honour.

Assemble at the Buninyong Golf Club at 9.00 am for a march off at 9.30 am.

REFUGEE WEEK

18-24 June 2017

See notice board for details.

AUSTRALIAN REFUGEES

Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees invites you to join them for open discussion on many issues affecting them. Details are: Tuesday 20th June at Ballarat Community Health, 12 Lilburne St Lucas from 7.00-8.30 pm. Cost \$5.00 To book a seat, please contact Thane Bourne on 0418 709 418 by Monday, 19th June.