

Reflection on the Gospel-The Body and Blood of Christ Year A
(John 6:51-58) Veronica Lawson RSM

Bread is staple food for much of the world's population. It is also a metaphor for the food that sustains the life of the human community. Being able to "put bread on the table" is the concern of every parent. Bread means life. Jesus' claim to be "the living bread" is a unique expression paralleled by his earlier claim to be "living water". It teases the reader with the possibility of multiple meanings. It refers at one level to food that gives life; at another, it is the gift of God's life. As we reflect on the symbolism of bread, we attend also to the plight of those without bread. While there is sufficient "bread" to satisfy the hunger of everyone on the planet, over one billion people are desperately hungry, some seven million South Sudanese among them as the civil war in their country continues.

Today's gospel passage belongs within a section of John's gospel generally called the Bread of Life Discourse. Some scholars suggest that the discourse as a whole is cast in the form of a synagogue homily. In this view, it is a rabbinic type exposition of Exodus 16:4 and Psalm 78:4-5 on the manna/bread that God rains from heaven. In John 6:51-58, there are allusions to Eucharist as both meal and sacrifice. Jesus is the manna or bread from heaven. Life comes from eating his flesh/body. It also comes from drinking his blood. For the ancient Israelites, the life was in the blood. Blood poured out is life poured out. To drink the wine/blood is to participate in the life of Christ poured out.

A simple analogy from my own context might help us to grasp something of the mystery that we call Eucharist. My home town, Ballarat, is the site of the Eureka rebellion. The Eureka flag is housed in a place of honour in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka. At one level, this flag is fabric and thread. At another, it far transcends the materials from which it is crafted. These materials were transformed, possibly by women from my own parish, into a symbol of freedom for the Eureka rebels. In the process, they changed their purpose and meaning; so too with the bread and wine of our Eucharistic celebrations. They have become, in a very real though mysterious sense, the body and blood of Christ.

This Sunday we take time to reflect on Eucharist, the mystery we celebrate from week to week. While we reflect on this mystery, we ground our faith in action designed to address the issue of global hunger and the circumstances that inhibit access to "bread" for all. The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ invites us to careful consumption of the world's resources so that all God's people and all God's creatures might have life.

BULLETIN FOR THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



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, 19th JUNE 2017

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
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	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

READINGS	First:	Jeremiah 20:10-13
	Second:	Romans 5: 12-15
	Gospel:	Matthew 10: 26-33

RECENT DEATHS: Tania Giles, Geoff Torney

ANNIVERSARIES: Jean Nolan, Greg Dunn, Janis Stubbings, Nora Roach, Mary Hoy, Richard Roach, Thomas Roach, P. Puncell, Harold Dunham, Kevin Coleman.

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, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

This Week: **Team 3:**M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 803.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits	\$ <u>215.00</u>
		\$ 1318.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 611.00

WELCOME

To Fr Kevin Arundell who will be our celebrant for the next three weekends.

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. 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.

REFUGEE WEEK

18-24 June 2017

See notice board for details.

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.

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 like 10 extra ministers for the vigil Mass and 6 for the morning Mass at St Alipius and at least 6 for 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.

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.

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

FAMILY MATTERS - STRENGTHENING RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

The Ballarat Diocese Social Justice Commission is hosting a Family forum with guest speaker Fr Frank Brennan **SJ, CEO** of Catholic Social Services Australia. All are welcome to attend this free event on Saturday, June 24th at the Cathedral Hall. Register at social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au no later than Monday 19th June for catering purposes.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS: POPE FRANCIS SURVEY NOW OPEN

Please encourage young adults you know to do this survey (Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone whether they are actively connected to church or not). This online survey is seeking opinions and perspectives of young people (16-29) as part of national consultation process that will inform the world wide Synod on Youth that Pope Francis is convening in October 2018. The survey closes on **2 July 2017**. Access the survey on www.ballarat.catholic.org.au For more information: youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5337 7125

TIME TO DRAW THE LINE – EAST TIMOR

Many of you have a close relationship with East Timor communities. Here is a way to ACT for JUSTICE in support of these communities. Sr Susan Connelly rsj has initiated a formal Petition to the Australian House of Representatives on the maritime border with East Timor. A formal petition means it will be read in parliament. See Notice Board.