

**Reflection on the Gospel-20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
(Matthew 15:21-28)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel story culminates in the healing of a "daughter" who may be a little girl or even a young woman. Her mother, the main character in the story, is known to Matthew's community simply as a Canaanite woman, or in other words an indigenous woman. To some early Christian communities, she is Justa, so we might reasonably call her daughter Justina.

Justa comes to Jesus as he moves from Jewish territory into or close to non-Jewish territory. In the language of liturgy, she laments loudly and persistently for her daughter, for Justina is "severely tormented by a demon". For the ancient Greeks, the antithesis of demonic possession or torment is human flourishing or well-being (*eudaimonia*). *Eudaimonia* means having a good guardian spirit as opposed to a malevolent spirit that impairs a person's well-being and sense of self. Justina's well-being is in jeopardy. Her distraught mother is an outsider to the "house of Israel" who is nonetheless familiar with Israel's prayer of lament. She is a woman alone in public space, risking ridicule and rejection to find healing for her daughter.

The immediate response to her plea is silence: Jesus "does not answer her a word". Is he ignoring her cry for help? Is he simply stunned, taken aback at the vehemence of her request? Is he rendered speechless by the simple fact that she would cross the boundaries of gender and ethnicity in this way? Is he in awe at her courage and faith from the outset? All we know is that he says nothing and that the disciples tell him to send her away. He responds by defining the limits of his mission rather narrowly: he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Justa is not deterred from her mission. She begs Jesus to help her and receives an explicit refusal in a confronting image that names his people as "the children" and hers as "the dogs". She accepts his statement as a challenge and bests him in the exchange: "even the dogs eat the crumbs...."

Jesus' horizons are expanded by the persistence and insight of this woman. Justa's great faith is affirmed and her daughter is healed. Justa is vindicated and Justina restored to a state of well-being or *eudaimonia*. Justina has her counterparts across the globe. The challenge for us is to be Justa in our times for the sake of all in the Earth community, human and other-than-human, whose well-being or *eudaimonia* is impaired by violence or war or lack of access to the means to flourish.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**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, 21st AUGUST 2017**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	9.00 AM

**21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

<b>READINGS</b>	First: Isaiah 22:19-23
	Second: Romans 11:33-36
	Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

**RECENT DEATHS:** Patricia Walsh, Laurie McCartin.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Geoffrey McCartin, Graham Simmons, Baby Nicholas McGuigan, Mervyn Roach, Leo Roach, Mary Roach, Dennis O'Driscoll, Ethel O'Driscoll, Jim Caddy, Margie Goldsmith, Marbeth Torpy.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor, Mary Martin, Patricia Harman, Mary Goossens.

### **COUNTING TEAMS:**

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

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

### **COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,077.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 575.00
		\$ 1,952.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 657.00



### **SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

Wednesday, 23rd August in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm Please enter via Gent Street.

#### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) GATHERING OF SPONSORS, CATECHISTS, PARISHIONERS**

An invitation is extended to all past sponsors, catechists and interested parishioners to gather.

**When:** Wednesday 23rd August at 7 pm

**Where:** Meeting Room, St Alipius Presbytery

Please contact Fr Peter, Ph. 5332 6611 or John Clonan, Ph. 0478 770 598

#### **EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE PROPOSALS**

In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. See flyers on the Notice Board and in the Church foyer.

#### **CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE - CATHEDRAL BRANCH - SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

This will be held on Wednesday September 6th in the Mary Glowery Room in the O'Collins Hall. Speaker, Diane Colbert, will present "*Our children and the media*". Stalls and competition. Afternoon tea. Free entry. Enquiries - Carmel 0401 175 045

#### **REMEMBERING THE TAMPA**

Please join Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees on Saturday, 26th August from 10.00 –11.00 am on Sturt Street at the bandstand opposite Europa Café. Bring banners. See Notice Board for details.

### **COMMISSIONING OF SPECIAL MINISTERS**

Thank you to all who attended the training night in July and/or have expressed an interest in this important ministry. A commissioning of new Special Ministers and a re-commissioning of existing Special Ministers will occur at all Masses next weekend (26th & 27th August).

#### **THANK YOU**

The Ballarat East St Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank our local schools and the parishioners of Ballarat East and Buninyong for their support of our recent Winter Appeal. We have received both donations and goods that will assist us as we continue our work of supporting struggling families in the Ballarat area..

#### **DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING**

Wednesday, 6th September at 5.00 pm. Please arrive by 4.45 pm for registration.

#### **BENEFIT CONCERT TO AID THE HOMELESS IN BALLARAT**

The Melbourne Singers of Gospel capture the energy, excitement, rhythm and harmonies of the mass gospel choirs of the USA.

**Sunday, 23rd August, 3.00 pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church**, Cnr Lydiard & Dana Sts, Ballarat. [www.trybooking.com/OYMT](http://www.trybooking.com/OYMT). Tickets available at the door. Enquiries 5333 1361.

#### **CAN CHRISTIANS SURVIVE IN PAKISTAN**

Fr Robert McCulloch will speak on the above on **Monday 28th August**.

Time: 6.00 pm Mass at Nazareth Chapel

7.00 pm Presentation in Hall followed by supper.

Ladies—please bring a plate. Entry by donation. All welcome.

See Notice Board. Enquiries 0401 175 045

#### **CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY RESOURCES**

In response to a request from Pope Francis, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has set aside Sunday, 10 September 2017 **Child Protection Sunday** as a Day of Prayer and Penance for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse. See the diocesan website under "Liturgy Resources" [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

#### **REFLECTION**

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love...For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite"

Barak Obama on Tweet quoting Nelson Mandela in response to Charlottesville.