

**Reflection on the Gospel-22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
**(Matthew 16:21-27)** -Veronica Lawson RSM

We all know people in leadership who take themselves a bit too seriously. Some confuse their role or title with their significance in the scheme of things. Some look for privilege and an easy life, forgetting that leadership of anything worthwhile involves hard work, misunderstanding, and invariably brings opposition. The first part of today's gospel story presents Peter, who has just been declared the foundation rock of the church and given the "keys" of the kingdom, refusing to accept that Jesus' mission will involve suffering, even death. The reader is confronted in this story with the expansive rock face at Caesarea Philippi, and invited to consider the friable properties of the seemingly indestructible rock. Even rocks can be reduced to sand or gravel and a humbler mode of being.

For all its seriousness, there is something quite comical about this story as it unfolds. Peter actually censures or reprimands Jesus. Jesus then sets him straight in no uncertain terms. The "rock" becomes the leader of the opposition, a serious obstacle to God's purposes, a stumbling block. He is ordered back to the place where disciples properly belong, namely "behind" Jesus, "following" him. Matthew provides a striking contrast in this section of the gospel between Peter who "rebukes" Jesus and the Canaanite woman who respectfully and persistently implores Jesus to see from a new perspective. Peter receives a decisive rebuttal, while the woman's plea is heard and she herself is praised for her great faith.

Peter's impetuous outburst provides the trigger for Jesus to invite his disciples to think about what they really want. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is the teacher and the disciples are the students who have accepted the invitation to follow him. That means living out in their lives the pattern of his life. If they really want to be his followers, then they have to embrace the pain involved in his relentless program of teaching and of healing the sick and brokenhearted. They will also share the "glory". If they choose to put their own interests first, then they will surely lose themselves. It is ultimately a question of choosing life. Peter forgets this for a while and has to be reminded to be true to what he has previously professed. He is not very different from the rest of us. We all need to rethink our choices and to reorder our priorities from time to time if we want to find life. September 1 was the World Day of Prayer for Creation and many churches are celebrating September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as a Season of Creation. At a time when life on our planet is seriously endangered, we might attend more closely to the urgent gospel challenge of living in ways that help to sustain the life of the whole Earth community.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**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, 4th SEPTEMBER 2017**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	1.30 pm Funeral Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	No Mass
<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

**23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

<b>READINGS</b>	First: Ezekiel 33:7-9
	Second: Romans 13:8-10
	Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

**RECENT DEATHS:** Evelina DiGiovanni.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Molly Dodd, Max Braybrook.

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

**Next Week: Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell.



### **COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 2,283.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 370.00
		\$ 2,953.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 697.00

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

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

### **MNW EMMAUS BOARD**

Special *Going Forth Day* on Saturday, 16th September at the Werribee Baptist Church. If you wish to know more please contact Rhonda on 0424 557 380. More details on the Notice Board.

### **MASS LITURGIES**

St Alipius liturgy rosters have been emailed or are available for collection near the Piety Stall this weekend. If you have not received yours or have any queries please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611. All involved (*ie* Readers, Offertory and Special Ministers) are asked to assemble in the church foyer before Mass to process in with Father Peter.

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

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

### **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)

### **SPIRITUAL CARE PRORAM**

A second program for parishioners engaged in pastoral ministry in its many expressions in our parishes is being offered soon. Bethany Pennington will facilitate this program comprising five sessions on the following dates—September 20th, October 4th and 25th, November 8th and 22nd. Each of these sessions will be held in the MacKillop and Glowry rooms in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. Parishioners engaged in Funeral ministry, Visiting, Communion to those at home or in care are welcome to participate.

Please register with Jacinta in the Cathedral Parish Office 5331-2933, by Friday September 15th.

### **BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND Collection for Sick and Retired Priests**

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the Fund.

This collection has raised nearly 1.8 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$60,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$37,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue '*caring for those who cared for us*'. Special envelopes are available for this collection. You may return your envelope over the next few weeks.

**A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.**

***CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US—THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY***

### **SENDING PEOPLE CAN BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN SENDING MONEY**

Communities in Asia, the Pacific and Africa are looking to provide mentoring opportunities for local personnel and improve processes and procedures for organisations vital to reducing poverty. To ensure sustainable development they prefer those willing to come for two years, but accept that some are only available for 12 months. If you are an experienced professional, business or trades person, in any area, but especially education, please consider volunteering with Palms Australia.

**Palms Info Session:** Thursday 14 September, 5.30 pm - 7 pm  
Australian Catholic University, Building 100  
Torney Room, 1200 Mair Street, Ballarat  
joey@palms.org.au or call 02 9560 5333

**RSVP:** Can't make it? Call now about applying for positions currently available, OR Look first via Palms' [two-week Encounter \(palms.org/au/encounters/\)](http://palms.org/au/encounters/)