

**Reflection on the Gospel-5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 1:29-39)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

In the Mediterranean world of the first century, sickness was attributed to social rather than physical causes. The corollary of this was that healing focussed principally on restoration of the person to her or his place or status in the society or community rather than on the person's bodily affliction or dysfunction. In a very real sense, the healing of an individual brought not only the person but the community itself to wholeness.

Last Sunday, we reflected on the "healing" of a man with an "unclean spirit". Jesus, healer and teacher, expelled the unclean spirit and thus restored health to the man and to the worshipping community. The healing took place in the Capernaum synagogue on the Sabbath. This story began Mark's account of a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Today's gospel passage continues that account. Jesus leaves the synagogue and moves, in the company of two of his new disciples, to the house of Simon and Andrew. In other words, he shifts from a long established gathering place for God's people, the synagogue, to a prospective new locus of communal engagement, the house church. This new locus does not preclude the older locus: Jesus continues to teach and heal in the synagogues throughout Galilee.

In this new place of encounter with God, Jesus heals a woman with a "fever" who is identified only in relation to her son-in-law, Simon. Jesus takes her by the hand and raises her up. She is the first human character in the Markan gospel story who is said to "minister". In other words, the love of God working through Jesus draws her beyond herself to engage in a ministry of leadership in the community of God's people. A little earlier in Mark's gospel we heard that angels "ministered" to Jesus in the desert. In other words, God looked after Jesus as he embarked on his mission of bringing God's love into a broken world. Later in the gospel, Jesus insists that he came "not to be served but to serve/minister" (10:45). This woman is caught up in the same mission of bringing the community to health and wholeness.

That same evening, Simon's house becomes a magnet for "the whole city". Jesus heals their sick and afflicted and, early in the morning, he seeks the solitude of a "desert" place for prayer. The disciples seek him out, as everyone is looking for him. Jesus makes it clear to them that he must move on and bring God's word and healing beyond the city to the neighbouring Galilean towns. The message is for us as well as for those early disciples. Amid all the demands of a sometimes frenetic program, we too must search out the solitude of a "desert" place for prayer, and engage with renewed energy and insight in whatever the new day brings.

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B



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, 5TH FEBRUARY 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: No Mass
THURSDAY: No Mass
FRIDAY: 9.30 am Opening Year Mass for
St Francis Xavier School
12.00 pm Opening Year Mass for
St Alipius School
All parishioners are welcome to attend.

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
Second: 1 Corinthians 10:31, 11:1
Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

RECENT DEATHS: Yordan Yordonopulo, Barbara Quanchi.

ANNIVERSARIES: Martin Moran, Margaret D'Cruz (Singapore).

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, Maria Wilson, Noreen Mullane, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 12: K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire.

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,106.40
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 410.00
		\$ 1,816.40
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 882.00



ABSENCE

Father Peter is away for a few days retreat. Thank you to Bishop Peter Connors for his support and assistance for our parish and priests.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK FLAG EVENT

You are invited to the Ballarat Interfaith Network's flag raising event in celebration of *World Interfaith Harmony Week*, in partnership with Ballarat City Council, on **Monday, 5th February, at 11.00 am** in the Queen Victoria Square in front of the Town Hall Sturt Street median strip. Indigenous acknowledgment of country and didgeridoo playing, Mayoral address, Baha'l keynote speaker, St Alipius PS Choir, flag raising and refreshments.

R.C.I.A.— THURSDAY 7.00 PM IN PRESBYTERY

If you know of someone who has expressed an interest to know more about the Catholic Church you can refer them to the Office or introduce them to the Team who will be able to assist.

RITE OF ELECTION

The *Rite of Election* is an important part of the process of a person's journey to full membership in the Catholic Church community and one which is greatly appreciated by all who participate. This applies to both adults and children of catechetical age. The Rite of Election for catechumens, candidates and children of catechetical age will take place on **Saturday, 17th February at 12.30 pm** in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. The presider will be Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. At the conclusion of the ceremony all are invited to join the Bishop in St Patrick's Hall for a light lunch. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office on 5337-7159 or email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE FEB 14—MAR 25

Join the international Pray to End Abortion campaign this Lent with other pray-ers on Wellington Parade, outside Jolimont station, anytime between 7 am and 7 pm daily. Register at www.40daysforlife.com/melbourne to add your hours to the calendar or phone 0407 350 948 for more information.

BALLARAT RURAL AUSTRALIANS FOR REFUGEES

Gather at the rotunda, opposite the Golden City Hotel, on **Saturday, 17th February from 7.00—8.00 pm** to remember those who have died at the Manus Island Detention Centre.

BISHOP PAUL'S PARISH VISITATION

Bishop Paul will be visiting our parish as part of his Diocesan Visitation Programme from **March 2nd to 5th** which will include visits to the schools of St Alipius, St Francis Xavier, Emmaus and Damascus. He will celebrate the weekend Masses and meet and greet parishioners. More details later.

MASS OF THE OILS

The *Mass of the Oils* will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at **6.30 pm on Monday, 26th March**. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2018—the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include Ushers, Readers, Oils Bearers, Presentation of the gifts, Collection of Oils, Musicians and Singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, phone 5337-7159 or email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

PALMS AUSTRALIA ENCOUNTERS

Palms Encounters are ethically run group tours that provide participants with authentic, hard to come by experiences. The tours have been carefully designed to give you an insight into the daily life of people of another culture, an understanding of sustainable approaches to reducing poverty, and an insight into the life and work of Palms development volunteers.

Palms Australia Encounters in 2018:

11 - 23 March Timor Leste
18 - 30 May Samoa
20 May - 1 June Timor Leste
2 - 14 September Timor Leste

If you would like to join us for this incredible experience, please contact Palms on (02) 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/encounters.