

Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Lent Year B (Mark 9:2-10)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The wilderness was the geographical and key symbolic focus of last week's gospel story. This week, the focus is a mountain. Wilderness and mountain remind us that God's Earth itself is the locus of mystery and grace, the place of Earth-divine encounter. The mountain, like the wilderness, links Mark's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites. Moses' encounter with God on the mountain of Sinai was a defining moment in the life of the people: the Israelites entered into covenant with God at this mountain and received the Law that was to guide their lives as a people. Some centuries later, at a time of crisis in Israel's life, the prophet Elijah returned to this mountain and experienced the presence of God in the gentle breeze.

In the gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and is "transfigured" before them and "his clothes become dazzling white". In the Book of Revelation, white clothes come to symbolise the clothing of martyrs, of those who die for their faith. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, appear and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet. The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate. If he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the "wilderness" and comes to terms with what it involves on this unidentified mountain.

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus that was announced in the opening words of the gospel and proclaimed at his baptism in the Jordan. It calls for a response from the disciples who have ascended the mountain in his company: "Listen to him". In the two preceding scenes, Jesus has spoken of the suffering that he and his followers will have to face. These words are crucial to an understanding, not only of Jesus, but of what it means to follow him. They seem to fall on deaf ears.

Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the courage and the good sense to return from the mountain and follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. If we are to maintain the struggle for a sustainable, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to "listen" to the invitation of Jesus and come to terms with the personal and communal costs involved in a gospel way of life.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong
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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2018

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	11.00 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	2.00 pm Anointing Mass in Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

The THIRD SUNDAY of LENT, YEAR B

READINGS

First: Exodus 20:1-17
Second: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel: John 2:13-25

ANNIVERSARIES: Brigita Dagleish.

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, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: Team 4: C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes: \$ 964.00
	Loose: \$ 300.00
	Direct Debits: \$ <u>320.00</u>
	\$ 1,584.00
PRESBYTERY:	\$ 606.00



LENTEN REFLECTIONS

On Thursdays during Lent the Parish offers an opportunity for Lenten Reflections on the Sunday Gospel. These will be held at 10.00 am in the Church meeting room.

CARING GROUP

The next Caring Group meeting will be held on **Friday, 9th March at 10.00 am** in the St Alipius Hall. This will be our Annual Meeting. **Please note the change of date.** All are welcome.

ANOINTING MASS

The Anointing Mass will be celebrated on Friday, 2nd March at 2.00 pm. Following Mass there will be afternoon tea in the Hall. Donations of a plate of food would be greatly appreciated. Please contact any member of the Caring Group if you need transport on the day.

PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

If you are seeking to have your child/children celebrating sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Eucharist and your child/children attend schools other than Catholic Parish schools, we are able to assist you. Please contact the Parish Office or your nearest Catholic school—Emmaus, St Alipius, St Francis Xavier, soon.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE FEB 14—MAR 25

Join the international Pray to End Abortion campaign this Lent with other prayers 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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH

Once again, we approach the first Friday in March when Christians world wide gather to pray for the issues that affect us all. Your are invited to join the prayer at one of our local services:

- 10.00 am Skipton St Uniting Church (525 Skipton St, Ballarat)
- 2.00 pm Neil Street Uniting Church (Macarthur St, Soldiers Hill)
- 7.00 pm Buninyong Uniting Church (Learmonth St, Buninyong)

VISIT OF BISHOP PAUL—NEXT WEEKEND

Parish Events:

Friday	2.00 pm	Mass of Anointing, followed by a cuppa in the Hall thanks to the Caring Group.
Saturday	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass at St Alipius. Parishioners are invited to share a cuppa with Bishop Paul after Mass. Come along and tell him what a great parish you are! You are invited to bring a plate to share. Thanks again to the Caring Group. <u>All welcome.</u>
Sunday	9.00 am	Mass at St Alipius.
	10.30 am	Mass at Buninyong followed by a cuppa. <u>All welcome.</u>

In between Bishop Paul will be visiting our schools, aged care facilities and some homes in the parish.

The Bishop will also make himself available for any parishioners who may choose to seek a time to meet with him individually. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611, or Amanda at the Bishop's Office on 5337 7125.

YESSIONTH BALLARAT

St Patrick's Cathedral YESSIONTH (Youth Every Second Sunday) welcomes all high school aged young people from the Ballarat Diocese to the St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on every other Sunday evening 6-8 pm. See you there!

MEDICAL UPDATE—DAVID & MAUREEN SANTAMARIA

"The operations went well and recovery is progressing well. We thank all those in the parish who have been praying for Maureen and myself, we appreciate the care and support" — David.