

**Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday of Lent Year B
(John 2:13-25)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel passage foreshadows the death of Jesus. As a devout Jew, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem at Passover. His final going-up will be the occasion of his death and resurrection. The Jerusalem Temple, Judaism's most holy place, is the site of a dramatic incident, an event that is recounted in all four gospels. The Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) locate it towards the end of the gospel. They present it as a catalyst for the intensification of hostility between the temple authorities and Jesus. John's gospel, in contrast, places it at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The tension between Jesus and the temple authorities that is to culminate in his death in all four gospels is thus present from the outset in John.

Jesus acts decisively, even violently, to draw attention to the primary function of God's "house". He creates an effective weapon, a whip of cords, and comprehensively clears the temple precinct of merchants, sheep, and cattle. He overturns the tables of the money-changers, orders the dove-sellers out and tells them all, in words that evoke the prophecy of Zechariah (14:21), to stop making God's house "a market-place". Zechariah had declared that, in the end times, there would no longer be traders in God's house. There was legitimate commercial activity associated with temple worship, such as the purchase of animals and doves for sacrifice, a practice we might now critique, and the conversion of money to pay the Temple tax. The traders seem to have forgotten that this activity was a means to an end and not an end in itself.

In John's account, the disciples partially understand: they interpret Jesus' actions in the light of Psalm 69:9: "It is zeal for your house that has consumed me". "The Jews" request a "sign ... for doing this". In other words, they ask Jesus to demonstrate the source of his authority for his actions. His response is a challenge: "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up". "The Jews" misunderstand. This provides Jesus with the opportunity to play on the word "temple": the temple is not simply a material edifice that took forty-six years to build. It is his body that will be destroyed and raised up "in three days". The narrator provides the explanation and indicates that the disciples will eventually understand and come to belief. It is important to note that the designation "the Jews" is neither a reference to the people of Judaea nor to the dispersed Jewish people. In John's gospel, it refers to those who reject Jesus as the Anointed One of God, the Christ. As we travel the journey to Jerusalem this Lent, we are invited to keep everything in balance, and to remember that God, and not the opponents of Jesus, will have the final word in this drama.

THE THIRD 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, 5TH MARCH 2018**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	No Mass
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

The FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT, YEAR B

READINGS	First: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
	Second: Ephesians 2:4-10
	Gospel: John 3:14-21

RECENT DEATHS: Betty Brogden

ANNIVERSARIES: Rupert McKenna, Barry Ridsdale, Brian Lewis, Patrick Joseph Duggan.

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, Leonie Sinnot.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: Team 5: J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 995.50
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 585.00
	Credit Cards:	\$ <u>4,607.00</u>
		\$ 6,487.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 937.00



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. All are welcome.

RECONCILIATION

1st Reconciliation is at **6.30 pm, Tuesday, 6th March** in St Alipius Church. Coordinated for young people and their families through the St Alipius School Community. Remember these young people and their families. All welcome.

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.

LENTEN CARDS

Lenten cards are available to feed you on your Lenten journey.

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.

WELCOME TO BISHOP PAUL

We welcome Bishop Paul who is ministering among us this weekend

PARISH FINANCE MEETING—SUMMARY

Members: Brett Holloway (Chair), Jim Moran (Secretary), Leo Hayes, Paul Jans, Gerard McCarty, Tanya Hislop, John White, Kathy Curran, Fr. Peter.

Brett presented a priorities list of the various projects that have been on the burner for a time. Members volunteered to assist with their development. Over the next few weeks we will inform parishioners of the project that are underway 1st up.

Parish Secretary

Fr. Peter advised that due to family commitments, Jim Moran has tendered his resignation as Parish Secretary after 22 years. Jim has served the parish extremely well and has been a good steward. Jim’s resignation takes effect 31st March. Fr. Peter and Tanya are developing a job description to advertise for the position of *Parish Coordinator*. Currently we are negotiating with the Cathedral Parish Accountant to assist in the work of recording and accounting finances and the paying of accounts and generating statements and reconciliations.

“Ensuring the Safety and Wellbeing of Children in Our Care”

Fr. Peter advised the group about the need to replace Jim as Parish Safeguarding Officer and to keep up to date with policies and practices concerning child safety in our parish., and compliance to laws and regulations and good pastoral practice. Paul has offered to assist and advise.

NAZARETH HOUSE MUSIC AFTERNOON

Nazareth House Auxiliary Irish Music Afternoon is to be held at **Nazareth House Hall on Friday, 16th March from 1:30 pm—3:00 pm**. Admission is \$5 per head. There will be an *entrance prize, afternoon tea, raffle and cake stall*. All welcome.

ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

St Patrick’s College will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary on **Saturday, 17th March**. Details as follows:-

- 11.00 am St Patrick’s Day Mass, College Chapel.
- 12.00 pm Old Collegians Luncheon, www.trybooking.com/TDGK, (\$30/head).
- 2.00 pm Football match Vs Assumption College.
- 2.00–4.30 pm Tours of the College led by current students.