

**Reflection on the Gospel-Passion/Palm Sunday Year B**  
(Mark 11:1-10; Mark 14:1-15:47)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

**Mark 11:1-10** Mark's account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is more restrained and less victorious in tone than the other gospel accounts. In keeping with Mark's gospel as a whole, it forms part of the relentless journey of Jesus, the suffering Messiah, towards Jerusalem the place of his death. The longed-for liberation will come about in Jerusalem, through powerlessness, suffering and death rather than through the exercise of might and power.

**Mark 14:1-15:47** The gospel account of the suffering and death of Jesus opens with the story of an insightful but unnamed woman who pours out healing ointment on the head of Jesus. We might reflect on the Eucharistic character of her actions of breaking and pouring and of Jesus' assurance that what she has done will be told in memory of her. She did "what she could". The story of her support for Jesus is sandwiched between two stories of opposition: an assassination plot on the part of the religious authorities, and the foreshadowing of Jesus' betrayal at the hands of a close follower. Status does not guarantee goodness or insight.

As the story unfolds, we hear that, despite his earlier instruction to "stay awake", Jesus' closest followers fall asleep when he most needs them. Worse than that, they betray, deny, and abandon him. Some Galilean women remain faithful. They have followed him and looked after him on the long journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. They become witnesses to his death and burial. These women will also discover the empty tomb and take the message of the resurrection to the male disciples. A foreign passer-by, Simon, whose sons are known to the Markan community, shoulders part of the burden. An ordinary Roman soldier realises and proclaims that Jesus is of God.

The story has come full circle: the first verse of the gospel announced the beginning of the good news of Jesus, the Christ and the Son of God. Now the reader understands what it means to make such a proclamation. The final chapter is to be celebrated next weekend. The mystery is to be lived every day of every week. As we enter into the holiest week of the liturgical year, we might consider our call to bring the power of Christ's redeeming love to those who suffer crucifixion in our own times: the more-than-human Earth community that suffers the effects of climate change; the desperate asylum seekers who remain on Manus Island and Nauru; the war-torn lands of Yemen and Syria.

For stories of hope in the face of despair, you may like to visit the Mercy Works website ([mercyworks.org.au](http://mercyworks.org.au)). It is all too easy to deny, betray, and abandon the suffering other. Like the woman who poured out the healing ointment on the head of Jesus, we also must do what we can.

**PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY—YEAR B**



**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, 26TH MARCH 2018**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	6.30 pm Mass of the Oils at St Pat's Cathedral
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	5.00 pm Mass at Mercy Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am Mass at Mercy Centre
<b>HOLY THURSDAY:</b>	7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Alipius
<b>GOOD FRIDAY:</b>	3.00 pm Lord's Passion Service at St Alipius
<b>HOLY SATURDAY:</b>	7.00 pm Easter Vigil Service at St Alipius

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	7.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	10.30 AM

**EASTER SUNDAY, THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

<b>READINGS</b>	First: Acts 10:34,37-43
	Second: Colossians 3:1-4
	Gospel: John 20:1-9

**RECENT DEATHS:** Maree Faulkner, Hardy Kerns, Elizabeth Smith.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mick Luke.

**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 Sinnott, John Darroch.

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

**This Week: Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

**Next Week: Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,647.70
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Cards:	\$ 3,637.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 320.00
		\$ 5,904.70

**PRESBYTERY:** \$ 682.00



**LENTEN CARDS**

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

**EASTER LITURGY PRACTICE**

If you are a Reader, Special Minister, Feet Washing or have another active role in the Easter liturgies, you are invited to gather in the Parish Church on **Tuesday at 5.30 pm** for a rehearsal — at most 1 hour.

**EASTER PREPARATION**

The St Alipius Parish Primary School Year 6 students are, once again, preparing to lead our school community and parishioners in preparing for Easter, by journeying with Jesus in a reflection of the way of the Cross. We hope you can join us at **12.00 midday on Thursday, March 29th** for this solemn, and important time of reflection.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE BUNINYONG**

On Good Friday the Combined Churches of Buninyong invite you to join in their annual commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus. The readings and procession commence from the front of the Buninyong Town Hall at 8.30 am and conclude at the Labyrinth in the grounds of the Uniting Church shortly after 9.00 am.

**SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

**Wednesday, 28th March at 2.00 pm** in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street.

**A NAME**

Can you think of an appropriate name for the presbytery, former presbytery, parish office, 84 Victoria Street? Write in a note, or email name with explanation, and we can see what emerges. Thank you.

**LIVING WITH CHRIST HOLY WEEK 2018**

The honour of your presence is requested for the Church's solemn commemoration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

\* Monday of Holy Week, \* Tuesday of Holy Week,  
\* Wednesday of Holy Week.

**THE SACRED TRIDUUM**

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**ST JOHN OF GOD REUNION**

St John of God *Past Trainees Reunion* will be held at the Ballarat Gold Club on **Saturday, April 14 from 11 am**. Tickets \$55.00. Phone Geraldine Vagg on 0148-554-096.

**ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL GRADE 6 REUNION**

30 Year Reunion 1988 Grade 6 to be held on **Saturday, 14th July 2018, 7.30 pm** at Hot Temple. Drinks at Bar prices. Nibbles provided.  
*RSVP* Saturday, 7 July 2018 by texting Jane on 0407-321-295.

**SACRED HEART COLLEGE CALSS OF 1966 REUNION**

Seeking former students, boarders and teachers from 1960—1966 for a reunion. Please bring pictures and other items of memorabilia on the day.

*Date & Time:* **Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 11.30 am to 4.00 pm**

*Venue:* Golden City Hotel

*Cost:* (to be determined based on number attending)

*RSVP:* 30 March 2018 to Barbara Bord (nee Meich) at [Barbara.ford1@bigpond.com](mailto:Barbara.ford1@bigpond.com) or phone 0424-503-244.

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MCKILLOP**

2018 Australian Pilgrimage from **23rd October to 3rd November**. See Notice Board for details.