

**Reflection on the Gospel-Easter Vigil Year B
(Mark 16:1-8)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

At the foot of Mt Macedon, where I spent the first sixteen years of my life, stands the lovely Anglican Church of the Resurrection, built in the aftermath of the devastating 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. Members of both Catholic and Anglican communities had wanted to build one church for the two communities but the respective insurance policies determined otherwise: two churches replaced the two that were destroyed in the fires. The most striking feature of the Anglican Church is Leonard French's stained glass depiction of the resurrection experience of a devastated community, a statement of hope in the face of death and seeming hopelessness. Macedon has risen from the ashes and is once again a vibrant community. The Church of the Resurrection serves as a reminder of the community's faith and provides a context for "remembering" events that united its members in unexpected ways. In a particularly graphic way, it brings the lower-key experience of the local community into dialogue with its upper-key Story of the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

We take time at Easter to remember, re-enact, and re-tell the originating stories of our tradition. We dramatise and celebrate in solemn ritual what we celebrate in lower key every Sunday of the year. In our faith inspired re-telling, all the power and grace of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are made present to us and to our world. Resurrection faith is a commitment to life.

In Mark's resurrection account (Mark 16:1-8), the place of death, the tomb, lies empty and the message of life is proclaimed. The young man, God's messenger, sends the women who have witnessed the death and burial of Jesus to proclaim the news of his resurrection to the male disciples. Some interpret the silence of the women as failure. Others see it as the appropriate stance before the wonder of God's power. The gospel narrative itself bears witness to a mission ultimately accomplished.

The ongoing wars in Syria and South Sudan, the climate displacement of peoples from the Marshall and Carteret Islands and the devastation caused by multiple earthquakes and consequent landslides in Papua New Guinea foreground the language of death and resurrection at this time. As we enter into the Easter mysteries, we carry with us the chaos of broken communities, human and more-than-human. We mourn the deaths of thousands, we pray for order out of the chaos, we ask questions about the human contribution even to the earthquakes and we do all we can to ensure a real return to life for the bereaved, the struggling and the displaced. We join with those who are sharing their resources and re-ordering their own way of being in the Earth community in order to make this happen.

EASTER SUNDAY, THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



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, 2ND APRIL 2018**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	10.30 am Funeral Mass in Parish Church
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR B

READINGS	First: Acts 4:32-35
	Second: 1 John 5:1-6
	Gospel: John 20:19-31

RECENT DEATHS: Catherine (Kitty) McGurrin, Toni Rykers.

ANNIVERSARIES: Isabel Britt, Agnes and Tom Mackin, Ethel O'Beirne, William Stevens.

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, John Darroch.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: Team 9: J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J.O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 2,163.70
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>635.00</u>
		\$ 3,098.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 813.00



HAPPY EASTER

Peter would like to wish our parishioners A Very Happy and Holy Easter—may it be a time of renewal and refreshment. We have been delighted with the contribution of so many people to the Easter celebrations and your ministries are very much appreciated. Enjoy the Holiness of this season.

EASTER SUNDAY TABLE PRAYER

Creator God and Lord of Life, You who call forth from the darkness of death all those who love You, we rejoice, on this Easter Sunday, in the resurrection from the dead of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Visit our home and this table with Your bright blessing of peace and life. We pause in the midst of this prayer to remember all the holy dead of our family who live now in You and who await the final and glorious resurrection of the dead. *Pause for silent reflection*

May they and we, because of our faith in You, our God, taste in the victory of life over death. May the Risen Christ, our Lord and Saviour, be our guest as we celebrate His resurrection with this Easter Sunday dinner. Bless those whose work to prepare this meal has truly been a work of prayer, and bless all of us who shall share it, with Easter love and joy.

May You, then, bless this table and this food, and each of us in Your Holy name. Amen.

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.

CARING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 6th April at 10.00 am in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

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.

IRISH HERITAGE EXHIBITION

The Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat and the Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission presents an *Irish Heritage Exhibition* in St Patrick's Hall Dawson St South on Saturday, April 14th and Sunday April 15th from 9.30 am—4.30 pm. Groups by appointment on Monday, April 16th (phone 0427 918 865). Admission—Adults gold coin donation. See Notice Board for further details.

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 CLASS 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 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.

VOLUNTEER WITH PALMS AUSTRALA

Get out there and be the Church, “bruised, hurting and dirty”. Communities in Myanmar, PNG, Samoa, Timor Leste, Kiribati and Kenya seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity. Palms volunteers don't do quick fixes, but immerse themselves in overseas communities for long-term skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, administrative or trade skills, share them with our global family! Contact Christine at Palms on (02) 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/volunteer/