

**Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday of Easter B
(John 20:19-31)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Some of us may remember when we spoke of the Sundays *after* Easter. The terminology has changed and we now speak of the Sundays *of* Easter. In other words, we now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into a different movement of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. In other words, he sends them to create communities of people who listen to one another and who love one another into life. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fears that control and even paralyse us. We render the gospel ineffective, even powerless, when we make self-protection our priority.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who is not with the other disciples when Jesus first appears in their midst. Thomas is not exactly the trusting type. He seems to trust only his own first hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think, however, that the other disciples are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days down the track! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears.

Even those of us who do believe and trust need a bit of time and encouragement to take the gospel message to heart. We often need the example and support of others to move out beyond our fears and embrace the pain of the wider world. We may do well to look back to today's first reading from Acts (2:32-35) where Luke presents an idealised picture of the post resurrection Jerusalem community: all things in common and the gospel received with great respect. We respond with love and generosity in times of crisis. How can we continue to live the gospel message from death through resurrection and into "ordinary time"?

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—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, 9TH APRIL 2018**

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR B

READINGS	First: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
	Second: 1 John 2:1-5
	Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

RECENT DEATHS: Catherine (Kitty) McGurrin, Beverley Pennicott.

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

Next Week: Team 10: P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 956.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 1,495.00
		\$ 2,751.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,148.00

GRATEFUL THANKS

In appreciation of a very reflective and prayerful Easter celebration. Thanks to all who assisted in the ministries over the weekend—in many small and big ways and in many varied ways. We must never forget the story.

POPE'S MESSAGE

Pope Francis has called on Christians to challenge injustice and violence with the hope of the Resurrection in his Easter blessing at St Peter's Square.

"We Christians believe and know that Christ's resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint. It is the power of the grain of wheat, the power of that love which humbles itself and gives itself to the very end, and thus truly renews the world."

As reported by the *Catholic News Service*, Pope Francis said in all the "furrows of our history, marked by so many acts of injustice and violence" the power of the Resurrection and the acts it inspires in believers "bears fruits of hope and dignity where there are deprivation and exclusion, hunger and unemployment, where there are migrants and refugees —so often rejected by today's culture of waste — and victims of the drug trade, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery".

He prayed especially for "those children who, as a result of wars and hunger, grow up without hope, lacking education and health care; and to those elderly persons who are cast off by a selfish culture that ostracises those who are not *productive*".

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 11th April at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent St.

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.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Everyone is invited to reflect on the question: "*What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?*" www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

To begin our preparation for this time of dialogue and discernment amongst all members of the Church in Australia, the Diocese of Ballarat will commence by *Praying Towards 2020* (April 21st—May 6th). In Ballarat City there will be events during the week of April 29th-May 5th to which all parishioners will be invited.

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.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MCKILLOP

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

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Your envelopes and statements are available for collection this weekend.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL READING & INFORMATION

Madonna, and *Praying with Pope Francis*. Check out editions down the back, and take out a subscription.

Madonna — Annual subscription \$39—interesting articles and reflections for each day.

Praying with Pope Francis — Online www.clicktopray.org.au or print copies available.