

**Reflection on the Gospel- 3rd Sunday of Easter Year B
(Luke 24:35-48)**

-Veronica Lawson, RSM

Extraordinary things can happen if we open ourselves to the presence of a stranger on the road of life. That is one of the elements in today's gospel that forms the conclusion to the Emmaus story. When I was a student at Trinity College in Dublin researching Luke's depiction of women in the Acts of the Apostles, I would often take a detour on my way home to visit the National Gallery of Ireland. Velázquez' remarkable oil painting, *Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus* captured and held my attention. We have here a painting within a painting. The kitchen maid pauses from her tasks to listen, through the window between kitchen and dining area, to the conversation between Jesus and his table companions. His hosts have not yet recognised the companion they had encountered on the road from Jerusalem. Velázquez seems to be suggesting that the young servant woman in the foreground, a woman from another place and another time, has sensed what they have still to discover.

Imagine two dejected disciples (Cleopas and possibly his wife) on the road from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. On their journey, they encounter Jesus who has been raised. At first, they fail to recognise him. Their sadness at his death has blinded them to what is happening before their very eyes. He engages them in conversation and holds up a metaphorical mirror to their experience of loss and grief. Their hearts "burn" within them as he opens to them the meaning of their sacred scriptures. They invite him to share a meal with them and their eyes are opened: they recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Jesus then disappears from their midst. They cannot contain the joy they have experienced in realising that he is alive.

Cleopas and partner go straight back to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples. Now all the assembled disciples experience powerfully the presence of Jesus in their midst. They share a meal with him. He opens their minds to understand the scriptures. Everything falls into place. They not only understand Jesus' death and resurrection in the light of the scriptures. They now know that they will be "clothed with power from on high" to exercise their role as witnesses to this great mystery, and to preach forgiveness to all peoples "beginning from Jerusalem".

Luke will open the Acts of the Apostles with the story of Jesus sending the disciples to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We who re-member these events in every Eucharistic celebration are both the recipients and the bearers of that message. If we allow our hearts to "burn" within us, we too may recognise the Risen One in our gatherings and become his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—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, 16TH APRIL 2018**

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR B

READINGS	First: Acts 4:8-12
	Second: 1 John 3:1-2
	Gospel: John 10:11-18

RECENT DEATHS: Leonard McLachlan (brother of Betty Edgar).

ANNIVERSARIES: Jim Murphy, Francis Murphy, Bridget Casey, Vic Jones, Annie Roach, Maria Dondoy, Jane Roach, Sarah Walker.

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 10: P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.

Next Week: Team 11: E. Kennedy ©, C. Stewart.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 923.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 1,080.00
		\$ 2,303.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 725.00



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL FOR TERM II

We welcome back to our schools, our teachers, school staff and students - and all who contribute to our school communities.

LITURGY ROSTERS

St Alipius rosters are available for collection this weekend.

THANK YOU

A big Thank You to all who took part in the “Buninyong Jam Session” for Project Compassion. The event raised \$345.

PARISH FINANCE MEETING

The Parish Finance Meeting is to be held at 6.00 pm , Tuesday, 17th April in the Presbytery, Parish Admin place.

CENTACARE—NO INTEREST LOAN SCHEME

Centacare, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat (Centacare) is funded by Good Shepherd Microfinance to provide a *No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)* to eligible people living on low incomes that enable them to purchase items including:

- Household items such as furniture, white goods, heaters, etc.
- Medical and dental services
- Educational essentials such as laptops, text books , school uniforms
- Car repairs and tyres.

For your information, brochures on the scheme being offered by Centacare are available at the back of the church. If you know of any parishioners who may be in need of such a service please let them know about the scheme.

If you have any further questions regarding the scheme please contact the Ballarat Centacare Office on 5337 8999 and ask for a NILS Support Worker.

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 to 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.

EARTH DAY—22ND APRIL

Remember to celebrate **Earth Day** this year on 22nd April — <https://www.earthday.org>. “We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth... The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now”. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*, 161.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet. In response, Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing the information and inspiration needed to fundamentally change human attitude and behaviour about plastics.

MOTHER’S DAY MASS—MAY 13TH

We celebrate Mother’s Day this year on May 13. On this day our parish 10.30 am Mass will, as usual, recognize and prayerfully thank all Mothers—those among us and those who live with God.

This year, we are planning to respectfully acknowledge in a more focused way the sufferings and strengths of the Mothers of our parish, past and present, especially those whose children were abused in this parish. In preparation, we will hold two short gatherings of Mothers where we will share thoughts, and plan prayers for this Mass over a cup of tea. We warmly invite all Mothers to assist us in planning this Mass. If you would like to be involved in the planning for this acknowledgment, please phone Karen on 0407 820 622. There will be volunteer drivers who are very happy to pick you up and take you home afterwards.

We would be grateful if you could spread the word to other Mothers and families who no longer have contact with the parish, the same offer of transport and welcome extends to them also.