

**Reflection on the Gospel-6th Sunday of Easter Year B
(John 15:9-17)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The constitutions of my religious institute remind me that “the tender mercy of our God has given us one another”. The implications of this profoundly beautiful truth are spelt out thus: “In our communities, we try to live in the friendship of Christ’s disciples [Jn 15:15]. To so live calls forth relationships of equality, a real acceptance of ourselves and others, a forgetfulness of anything that does not make love its message.” Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is at the heart of a gospel way of living. It is the commission at the heart of today’s reading and seems to be exactly what Pope Francis wants to say to all believers in his new Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exultate* (Rejoice and be Glad).

As we listen to the proclamation of the gospel, we might attend to the repetition of “joy”, the three-fold repetition of “friends” and the nine-fold repetition of “love”. We might attend to the way in which the pronouns I/my/me and you/your function in the passage. We may also notice the reference to “commands” and “commandments”.

We tend not to associate “commands” with friendship and love because those we count as our friends are not usually in the habit of commanding or ordering us to do what they want. We derive little joy from being told what to do. And yet, there is no resiling from the juxtaposition of these terms. God, imaged in the gospel passage as “Father”, loves Jesus. Jesus remains or abides in God’s love so deeply that this love flows on to his friends. They are to love one another as Jesus has loved them. This is his commandment or commission to them, and by extension to us. It directs them/us to live for each other and put their lives/our lives on the line for one another. It means being faithful to the teaching of Jesus as he has been faithful to God’s commandments.

Remaining in the love of God or of Jesus and doing what God or Jesus commands seem to be one and the same thing. In other words, love is not just an emotion: it is always expressed in action that is in tune with and for the sake of the other. The disciples need no further explanation. Jesus’ whole life and his courage in the face of impending death have shown them what it means to love one another.

Living in the friendship of Christ’s disciples is not some abstract goal. Too often we affirm the goodness of our selfless companions on the journey only when we come to lay them to rest. As we approach the end of the Easter season, we might give thanks for the love of our friends, for their witness to holiness and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 7 MAY 2018**

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—YEAR B

READINGS	First: Acts 1:1-11
	Second: Ephesians 4:1-13
	Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jack Barnett, Lena Braybrook, Daniel Lynch.

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 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane.

Next Week: **Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 906.20
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 255.00
		\$ 1,311.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,080.00



Vacancy

St Alipius Parish Coordinator

St Alipius Parish Ballarat East invites applications for the part-time position (16 hours per week) of *Parish Coordinator*. A Position Description and Application Form can be accessed via the Parish website <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au> - Look under *Our Parish* then click on links.

MY HEARTFELT THANKS

Now that the dust has settled, I wish to express my gratitude for the support and assistance of parishioners during my time as Secretary of this great Parish. To have spent nearly 22 years in that position is something I will never forget and will remember with a great deal of happiness and satisfaction. The support of the priests and my colleagues has made my time so very rewarding and enjoyable, and I owe so much to them. A very big thank you again for making my time "a little bit of heaven".
Jim Moran

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 9th May at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

First Communion preparation for parents and students will be held on Tuesday, 8th May, from 6 to 7 pm for St Alipius, and for Emmaus on Wednesday, 9th May from 5.30 to 6.30 pm.

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. Please spread the word to other Mothers and families who no longer have contact with the parish.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, 26th May in the McInerney Centre at school, 7pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets now on sale from the school office—\$10 per ticket, tables of 8,6, & 4 are available. BYO nibbles and drinks, fantastic prizes to be won.

ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

The 2018 One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies is scheduled for 4, 5 and 6 May. Persons participating in this multinational pro-life prayer event will pray at least one Rosary for an end to abortion. For details and to register go to: <http://www.saintmichaeltheangelorganization.org>.

NAZARETH HOUSE FUNDRAISING CONCERT

The Nazareth House Auxiliary are hosting a fundraising concert on Sunday, May 20th at Nazareth House Hall, Wendouree, at 1.45 pm. The Regina Caeli Choir and Kerin and Kyle from St Columba's Parish will be performing. Tickets available at the door—Adults \$20, Family \$25. Afternoon tea provided. For more information contact Margaret on 5332-4454.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA WORKSHOP

Fr Anthony Gittens, a leading author and speaker on ministry and service, will present his workshop "Ministry at the Margins" on Monday, May 21st from 10.30 am—3.00 pm at the Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne. This is an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual roots of our service to those on the margins of our society. For more information go to Catholic Social Services website <https://www.css.org.au/Whats-Happening/Our-Events>.