

**Reflection on the Gospel-Trinity Sunday Year B
(Matt 28:16-20)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Trinity Sunday celebrates the core Christian conviction that God is a communion of relational love. For the people of Israel, no other god could compare with their God whom they knew as both creator and liberator and whom they experienced as intimately involved in every aspect of their history and of their day-to-day lives. In a world of many gods, the assertion found in today's first reading from Deuteronomy that there is "no other god" was an enormous claim to make. God's sustaining and liberating presence brought with it serious responsibilities: keeping God's commandments grounded the people of Israel and their descendants in the life of their God.

The earliest Christians inherited the Jewish belief in one God. At the same time, Christians expressed their faith in distinctively Trinitarian language. Over the first six centuries of the Christian era, the belief that God is a communion of love was to develop into the doctrine of the Trinity, a teaching that is at the heart of Christian faith. The word Trinity is not used in the Christian Scriptures. In fact, it was not until the Council of Constantinople in 381CE that the doctrine of the Trinity was set out in the creed, and not until the Second Council of Constantinople in 551CE that the word "Trinity" was actually used of the Triune God.

Today's gospel reading brings Matthew's gospel to a close. Jesus commands his disciples to make disciples of all peoples and to baptize in the name of the Trinity. At the beginning of this gospel, Jesus is named Emmanuel, "God with us". With Jesus' final assurance, "know that I am with you always", we find ourselves gathered into the very life of God. *Perichoresis*, a Greek term suggestive of a cyclical movement or of figures interweaving, is one of the earliest and probably one of the most striking images used to explain the Trinity. The life that is in God is understood, in this image, as a totally harmonious movement of equals. The wonder is that we are gathered into this movement. As St. Paul reminds us, God is not a distant God, but rather a God whose Spirit draws us, as "joint heirs with Christ", into God's own life of love and relationship. Trinity Sunday is the day we set aside to celebrate the nearness of God who invites us into the dynamic cycle of life and love, a cycle that reaches out beyond the human community and embraces the entire cosmos. As we make the sign of the cross, we might become more and more attentive to the wonder of the divine life that dwells in us and in whom we are privileged to dwell.

SUNDAY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY — YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 28 MAY 2018**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	10.00 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	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

SUNDAY OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST—YEAR B

READINGS	First: Exodus 24:3-8
	Second: Hebrews 9:11-15
	Gospel: Mark 14:12-16,22-26

RECENT DEATHS: Margaret Cahir, Mary Dowling (mother of Cathy Prunty), Leslie Marmo.

ANNIVERSARIES: George Pearse.

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 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Next Week: **Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 723.00
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	<u>\$ 405.00</u>
		\$ 1,278.00

PRESBYTERY: \$ 918.00



CARING GROUP

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on Friday, 1st June at 10 am in the St Alipius Hall. All welcome.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

I wish to affirm the Principals, Teachers, Admin and Support Staff of our Catholic Schools within the parish. Also, the members of Advisory Councils, School Boards, Governing Authorities, Parent Leaders, Parents of our children who support their schools in the work of Catholic Education; and the Students for whom we exist and who also teach us so much. Learning is such a wonderful gift — *Catholic Education is a learning of life.* Fr. Peter

Here are some reflections from our Parish Schools:

Catholic Education Week was celebrated across the Diocese from May 18-25. The theme this year was **Come and See**. Jesus asked the disciples to ‘Come and See’ where he lived—and more than that, he asked them to see **how** he lived. Jesus asks the same of us today.

To be acutely aware of how Jesus lived, and to respond each day to his invitation to live in love, is what it means to be an authentically Catholic Community. That is our challenge every day, and the relationship with Jesus that inspires our living and loving and learning is what we celebrate in Catholic Education Week.

The student population of our three primary schools is over 1000 so to enable us to gather and celebrate Catholic Education Week we arranged ourselves over four sites. The Foundation students gathered at Victoria Park Playground, the 1s and 2s celebrated at St Francis Xavier, the 3s and 4s joined together at St Alipius and Eureka Park, and the 5s and 6s went out the road to Emmaus. Each group participated in a prayer celebration and singalong led by musicians from each school, we engaged in a range of activities and finished up by sharing a sausage sizzle lunch together. What a great celebration—and a meaningful way for our parish to come together!

THOMAS GROOME—ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL

On May 21st, the teaching staff from St Alipius Parish School were extremely fortunate to attend Thomas Groome’s workshop ‘Education from and for Faith’. With 600 other enthusiastic Catholic educators from the Diocese of Ballarat, the staff engaged with Thomas as he discussed the purpose of Catholic Education, some challenges presented in teaching Religious Education, and explored Jesus’ pedagogy towards teaching. He expressed the need for teachers to lead others in taking their everyday lives, connecting and making links to faith, and then living and applying the faith back into their lives — “life to faith, faith to life”.

JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM—AIRS 27 MAY

Fr Graham Schmitzer reflects on the Gospel of Matthew; Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy encourages us to Get Spiritually Fit; and Marilyn Rodrigues, The Peaceful Parent, reminds us of the importance of One-on-One Time. Our music is selected from various talented music artists who help us to create a show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

The Society invites you to be part of their annual Winter Appeal.

- This year, to date, the Society has distributed support to the value of \$276,880 across the Ballarat area. An increase of 14% over the same period last year.
- The number of people seeking assistance grew by 4% in the first four months of the year.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from our parish as it enables us to continue our support to those in need.

If anyone is interested in joining our group, please contact Helen on 0419 875 349 for information. Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall.

CONTAINART MOBILE GALLERY

Through June, the ContainART Mobile Gallery features work by a Hazara man from Afghanistan who, with virtually no education, has taught himself to draw and paint over four years while in refugee detention in Melbourne. The Mobile Gallery will be set-up at Pearce’s Park, Barkly Street, Ballarat from June 2-27. Supported by the organisation Rural Australians For Refugees (RAR), a free all-welcome community celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 16 from 2-4 pm to commemorate this significant display of artwork. Special guests include ABC personality Tom Ballarat, and award-winning poet Abe Nouk, himself a former asylum-seeker.