

**Reflection on the Gospel-The Body and Blood of Christ Year B
(Mark 14:12-16, 22-26)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The Gospel for today reminds us that we are in a “covenant” relationship with our God. We renew that covenant in every celebration of the Eucharist. The Israelites of old sealed their covenant with God in animal sacrifice, a practice we may wish to critique, and in the celebration of a meal (Exodus 24:1-12). The blood of the slain animal was sprinkled on the altar and on the people. The people knew that blood signified life: if blood spilled out then life spilled out. The altar signified God. The sprinkling of the blood denoted their shared life with God. They were called to be holy as God is holy. The symbolism of the Jewish covenant ritual informs today’s Gospel story of Jesus’ final Passover meal with his disciples. Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread broken and shared becomes his body broken and “given” for them. The sharing of the cup of wine becomes their sharing in the life of Jesus “to be poured out for many”. Bread and wine in this context have taken on a new meaning.

While all analogies fall short, we might begin to understand this mystery by considering the Eureka flag. The flag is constructed of fabric and thread. It is housed in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka and protected with the utmost care. Because of its associations with the Eureka rebellion and what Eureka stands for in Australian history and folklore, it carries the story that informs its creation as well as all the goodness of its fabric and thread. It has acquired multiple levels of meaning.

Through the actions and words of Jesus, the bread and wine of the Eucharist likewise signify something entirely new along with all the goodness of their materiality. They are Life for us, the shared life of the Risen Christ. We are called to bring that life to others, to give life for the sake of the many. Reading the passage in the context of Mark's gospel provides some insight into how we might do this. The eleven preceding verses recount stories of contrasting responses to Jesus as he faces his final days: temple authorities plot to destroy him; an unnamed woman “breaks” an alabaster jar and “pours” the healing perfume on his head, thus anointing his body “for burial” through Eucharistic action; Jesus declares that what she has done will be told “in remembrance of her”; a close friend seeks to betray him.

Betrayal and rejection are ever present possibilities even in Eucharistic communities. We are all too aware of this as we endeavour to address the consequences of child sexual abuse in our communities. We need to learn from the other possibility presented to us in this context, namely that of pouring out the healing perfume of compassion and love on our fractured Earth communities.

SUNDAY OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST — YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong

(The Parish of St Alipius, the communities of Ballarat East and Buninyong are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.)

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, 4 JUNE 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

10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Genesis 3:9-15
Second: 2 Corinthians 4:13, 5:1
Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

RECENT DEATHS: Br John Walsh.

ANNIVERSARIES: Len Bettles, Nancy Colasante, Justin Middling.

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 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.
Next Week: **Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,190.70
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	<u>\$ 270.00</u>
		\$ 1,610.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 744.00



PARISH COORDINATOR

After much prayer and reflection, and on recommendation of our interview panel, **Mrs Lucy O’Bierno** has been appointed to the position of *Parish Coordinator*.

Lucy will work 16 hours a week—12 hours of that time will be regular “face to face time” plus 4 hours of parish duties over the week.

The primary purpose of the Parish Coordinator position is to support the parish community with the coordination of the ministries that operate within the parish. The parish has a long history of volunteering and it is the intent of this appointment that it enhances the level and quality of the volunteering, not replaces it.

I congratulate Lucy on her appointment and look forward to working with her. I am sure she will continue the great tradition of secretaries and coordinators who have been a part of the parish life.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 9.30 am—1.30 pm
Thursday: 9.30 am—1.30 pm
Friday: 9.30 am—1.30 pm

For the most efficient outcome of your enquires, bookings, information, requests, etc., please use these hours.

However, you can always leave messages, notes, or knock on the door, or email ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

We will do our very best to assist at any time.

FIRST EUCHARIST

Welcome and congratulations to our young people who have completed their initiation into the community of the Church through the reception of Holy Communion.

Thank you to parents, Caitee and the school community for supporting and preparing the children for this special time. *Celebrate the Eucharist with joy and often.*

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

This is the last weekend of the Annual Diocesan Mass Count. Counters/collectors please take note. Details of the count will be published next week.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia announced yesterday that the Catholic Church would commit to the *National Redress Scheme*. “Since as early as 2013, the Catholic Church has called for a national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse,” ACBC president, Archbishop Mark Coleridge said. “We support the royal commission’s recommendation for a national redress scheme, administered by the Commonwealth, and we are keen to participate in it. “Survivors deserve justice and healing and many have bravely come forward to tell their stories.”

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

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

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

See My Humanity—Dreams of a Life Beyond Detention. 2-27 June, Pearce Park, Barkly Street, Golden Point. An *All Welcome Community Gathering* is to be held on Sat, 16 June from 2 pm to 4 pm with special guest Tom Ballard.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY—JUNE 5

To celebrate World Environment Day, Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese is recommending a film night at the Regent Cinemas with two short films “Living the Change” and “Baykeepers” at 7.30 pm on Tue 5th June. Ticket are \$15.

EVENING PRAYER AT THE CATHEDRAL

There will be five seminarians from Corpus Christi coming to Ballarat on Monday, June 18 and will be having Evening Prayer in the Cathedral at 6.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.