

Reflection on the Gospel-13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 5:21-43)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

As noted in relation to Mark 3:21-35, Mark's gospel often has a story within a story. Some scholars refer to this technique as the making of a Markan sandwich, others as a framing device. In Mark 5:21-43, the frame consists of the two-part story of the desperately ill twelve year old daughter of Jairus, a synagogue official. Jairus falls at the feet of Jesus in an attitude of reverence and pleads with him to come and lay hands on her. Jesus is clearly known as a healer, one who can "save" life. The passage closes with the young woman's seeming death and restoration to life. In between, we have the story of an older woman, also seriously ill, possibly with a gynaecological problem: she has been haemorrhaging for twelve years.

The stories are linked in many ways, first by the repetition of the number twelve—a symbolic number in a Jewish context. Both the young Jewish woman and the older Jewish woman are in need of the saving power of God mediated through Jesus the healer. Later in the Markan story (7:24-30), a Gentile mother will also beg for healing for her daughter who will receive that same saving power of God. Jairus' daughter does not speak for herself. Like all young women of that culture, ill or not, she is dependent on the voice of her father. The older woman comes tentatively "from behind". She speaks, but only to herself, as she touches Jesus' cloak and experiences healing in her body. The healing power of God suffuses even the fabric of a protective outer garment. The woman is finally shamed into telling all. Like Jairus, she falls at the feet of Jesus. Jairus refers to his child on the brink of adulthood as "my daughter". Jesus addresses the older woman as "my daughter".

Both women, the younger and the older, are daughters of Israel. Both are restored to health, one on account of her parents' faith (the faith of an unnamed mother and a named father), the other because of her own faith. Jesus the healer has embraced and responded to the pain of a woman alone on the one hand and of a family (mother, father, and daughter) on the other.

Towards the end of the gospel (14:3-9), this Jesus who has brought healing to little children, to older women and younger women, to older men and younger men, to Jews and to Gentiles, will himself become the recipient of the healing ministry of an insightful woman who draws on Earth elements and pours out healing ointment. Jesus will recognise this action as a beautiful thing that she has done "in him" For now, the stories recount "the beautiful thing" that Jesus does in the lives of suffering humanity, irrespective of age or gender or status or ethnicity.

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — 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.)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am—1.30 pm
Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350
Telephone: 5332 6611
Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 2 JULY 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

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Ezekiel 2:2-5
Second: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Kent, Carmel Dunn, Norm Rouhan, Tom Ballinger.

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:	\$ 885.30
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>470.00</u>
		\$ 1,505.30
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,153.00

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We wish our students, parents and carers, and teachers a very restful and restorative break. Be safe!

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on Friday, 6th July at 10.00 am in the St Alipius Hall. All welcome.

COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

Once again the Annual Collection for the Holy Father is to be taken up throughout the world on a weekend near the feast of Ss Peter & Paul (29th June). This special collection which goes to support the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world will be taken up at our Parish Masses next weekend (July 7/8).

DAMASCUS COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS

DC Performing Arts presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. 8 pm on July 25, 26, 27, and 28; plus 2 pm Matinee session on July 28. at Damascus College Valda Ward Auditorium. Tickets: Adults \$15, Children \$10, Family (2 adults + 2 children) \$40. Tickets at www.damascus.vic.edu.au.

SVDP - NWCC ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT VACANCY

St Vincent de Paul requires an Administration Assistant part-time, fixed term for 12 months, 22 hours per week in Ballarat. Applications close July 6, 2018. To find out more information about this vacancy please go to website <https://svdpcvic.applynow.net.au/jobs/SVDP476-nwcc-administration-assistant>

PASTORAL CARE VACANCY

Mercy Health is currently advertising for a Pastoral Carer to work at their new aged care home Mercy Place Ballarat which is due to open in September. In this role you will enjoy sharing the lives of older people by helping to nurture their emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

Volunteer mentors needed to make a difference in the life of a school child with refugee or asylum seeker background

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support students from a refugee/asylum seeker background in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The project aims to provide mentoring for young people to optimize their literacy development, academic and social learning.

Mercy Connect volunteers work with students during school hours and the volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but, you will receive on-going training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in Third Term 2018.

Obtaining a current Working with Children Check and Police Check is part of the Application Process.

Contact Donna Stewart on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyclconnectb@gmail.com

JOY SPREADING—SAM CLEAR SPECIAL GUEST

Sam Clear is the guest speaker at the next *Joy Spreading* event for young adults (18 -30yo) on Friday 27 July from 6.30pm – 9.00pm at the Lake View Hotel, Ballarat. An opportunity for young Catholic adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. Free event. This is a Year of Youth initiative - *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. More info www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or 53377125.

THE NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

The Federal Government's redress scheme commences 1 July 2018. The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, through the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference, has committed to participate in the scheme as another avenue of support for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. People wishing to find out more and/or pursue support under the redress scheme can visit the Australian Government's Department of Social Services website www.dss.gov.au/redress or call the National Redress Information Line on 1800 146 713. I would like to confirm that any payments by our Diocese under the redress scheme will be paid from Diocesan resources, and not from the resources of parishes. Parish funds and assets belong to the local parish communities. They are a valuable resource for local communities and assist in fulfilling the mission of the Church at a local level. (*Andrew Jirik, Diocesan Business Manager*).

CTC INTENSIVE STUDY OPTIONS

Catholic Theological College (CTC) Intensive Study Options are now available.

Winter Intensives: 6 Weekdays in July: Choice of *Philosophy, Systematic Theology, Religious Education or Christian Spirituality* units.

Saturday Intensives: 6 Saturdays: Choice of *Meditation or Ageing* units.

Weekend Intensives: 3 Weekends: *Liturgy and Sacraments* unit
Audit and Credit options available. Enquiries to Mr Jude Caspersz (Registrar),
Tel: 9412 3309 or Email: ctc@ctc.edu.au.