

**Reflection on the Gospel – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
(Mark 6:1-6)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of us have known the experience of feeling powerless in the face of rejection, especially when it is rejection from those who are closest to us, from those who might normally be expected to understand and affirm us. Mark presents such rejection as the experience of Jesus. Earlier in the gospel (3:20-21), we find that Jesus is misunderstood by his family who consider him to be out of his mind. Members of his family try to take responsibility for him, to take hold of him and to save him from himself. When they come to take him away, he leaves them outside and continues to teach those gathered around him about a new sort of kinship, kinship that is based on doing God's will.

In today's gospel reading (6:1-6), we find that the neighbours and friends of Jesus' family have trouble coping with him. They admit that his teaching demonstrates considerable wisdom. They also acknowledge his extraordinary power as a healer. From their perspective, however, something does not add up. After all, he is basically just one of them, "the craftsman".

Jesus' hometown people do not simply puzzle over his extraordinary powers. They are actually "scandalised" by him. He experiences their response as rejection and tells them how he feels. In so doing, he identifies himself with the rejected prophets of old. The townspeople's lack of faith renders Jesus, the prophet in their midst, powerless: he is simply unable to perform any mighty deeds among them. There is a hint in the text, however, that some few do have faith: "he cured a few sick people." He cures these people "by laying his hands on them". We have seen, in the request of the man with leprosy (1:41) and the action of the crowds (3:10,) the people's well-founded faith in the healing power of touch, of bodily encounter. Touch is once more the agent of healing.

At times, we may be like Jesus, bringing the wisdom and power of God to our families or local communities, only to meet with rejection. Sometimes, we may be like the few who come in faith and experience a healing touch. At other times, we may replicate the behaviour of the opponents of Jesus and discount the achievements of those who excel or whose message challenges us or our lifestyle. To refuse to listen to a prophetic message because the messenger fails to meet our preconceived ideas about prophets may have something to do with a lack of faith. It may actually stymie the power of God. Finally, the emphasis on healing in this reading invites us to pause and consider the intrinsic value of all, human and other-than-human, so often denigrated and devalued by attitudes that dichotomise the material and the spiritual with dire consequences for the Earth community.

**14TH 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, 9 JULY 2018**

**MONDAY:** No Mass  
**TUESDAY:** 5.00 pm at Mercy Centre  
**WEDNESDAY:** No Mass  
**THURSDAY:** 9.30 am in Parish Church  
**FRIDAY:** 9.30 am in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	10.30 AM

**15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**READINGS** First: Amos 7:12-15  
Second: Ephesians 1:3-14  
Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Edward John Duck

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Maria Wilson, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman, Leonie Sinnott, John Darroch.

### COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders©, M. Saunders.

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

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$	1,087.50
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	<u>960.00</u>
		\$	2,197.50

**PRESBYTERY:** \$ 891.00



### SOCIAL AFTERNOON

This month's Social Afternoon will be held on Wednesday 11th July at 2.00pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent St. All welcome.

### COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

The *Annual Collection for the Holy Father* will be taken up this weekend. This special collection goes to supporting the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world. Thank you for your support.

### STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

The Stewardship Envelopes are available for collection this weekend.

### RETURN OF UNUSED PIXES

Could any Ministers of the Eucharist who have unused pixes at home please bring them into the sacristy for collection. Many thanks.

### OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Copies of this publication are available at the back of the church this weekend.

### THE SWAG

A few copies of *The Swag*, the quarterly magazine of the National Council of Priests of Australia, are available for interested parishioners to take home and return. If anyone has a copy at home please remember to return it to the church foyer for others to peruse. Thank you.

### DAMASCUS COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS

The upcoming performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* is sold out. For those who managed to secure tickets it promises to be a terrific show!

### BAPTISM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish is seeking volunteers to support families for the Sacrament of Baptism. Interested parishioners are invited to attend an information session over a cuppa in the parish administration (old presbytery) on Wednesday, 18th July at 7.00 pm. Main idea is to offer friendly and welcoming support to families at the Mass of Baptism.

### THREE NEW PARISHES

Bishop Paul has announced the formation of three new parishes that have emerged from joining groups of neighbouring parishes that have already been working together and sharing a parish priest. The new parishes are: St. Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border, Parish Priest Fr Patrick Mugavin; Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee, Parish Priest Fr Matthew Thomas; and Mary Glowrey Parish, East Wimmera, Parish Priest Fr Eugene McKinnon and Assistant Priest Fr Peter Jose. We pray that the formation of these new parishes will bring new blessings for these communities.

### RALLIES FOR REFUGEES

This July marks 5 years since the *PNG Solution* was announced by Kevin Rudd PM saying "From now any asylum seeker who arrives in Australia by boat will have no chance of being settled in Australia as refugees". Consequently, many asylum seekers have been kept on Manus Island Nauru for five years. A local protest rally will be held in Ballarat on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July, meeting at 11.00am outside Catherine King's office; Melbourne protest being held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 2pm outside the State Library of Victoria. More information on flyers in church porch.

### JOY+ DIOCESAN YOUTH FESTIVALS

Ballarat Diocese is holding 3 x day-long Festivals called Joy+ for youth and young adults 15-30yo. From the Murray to the Sea, in Robinvale on Sunday 5 August, in Warrnambool West on Sunday 2 September, in Ballarat on Sunday 25 November. Come to one or more! Features Genevieve Bryant & band and special guests. Free registration now open [www.trybooking.com/WHVU](http://www.trybooking.com/WHVU). This is an initiative for the Year of Youth - *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy!* More details check youth ministry web pages [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### MERCY CONNECT — VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

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. Interested persons should contact Donna Stewart on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com).