

Reflection on the Gospel-16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 6:30-34)

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

In every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and re-creation. With so much pain and suffering in our world, the demands of living a gospel way of life can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today's gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.

The apostles have been busy—preaching, healing and driving out the “demons” as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities and are invited to take time to rest and recuperate. “Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while” is the invitation that Jesus extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel travelled for forty years. For the contemporary reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert, on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth’s surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other.

The “rest” that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is “moved with compassion”. The Greek verb for being moved with compassion suggests a “gut” reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are “like sheep without a shepherd”, and he is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. “You give them something to eat” is his instruction to those who would turn the people away.

Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or “shepherds” who will “practice justice and righteousness in the land”, as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness entail.

As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus’ disciples are well-meaning, though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect, however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the “shepherd”, and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement of peoples and of other-than-human species.

16TH 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:

Parish Address:

Telephone

Email:

Parish Website:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am–1.30 pm

84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350

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<http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 23rd JULY 2018

MONDAY: No Mass

TUESDAY: 5.00 pm at Mercy Centre

WEDNESDAY: No Mass

THURSDAY: No Mass

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

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS	First: Kings 4:42-44 Second: Ephesians 4:1-6 Gospel: John 6:1-15
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ANNIVERSARIES: Laurence Braybrook

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman, Leonie Sinnot, John Darroch.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 12: K. Bevelander©, M. Liston, G. Maguire
Next Week: Team 1: L. Noonan©, G Clarkson, L. Mullane

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes: \$ 1,195.50
	Loose: \$ 150.00
	Direct Debits: \$ 195.00
	\$ 1,540.50
PRESBYTERY:	\$ 1,070.00

EVENTS

A social afternoon will be held on Wednesday 25th July at 2.00pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome

DISMISSAL CATECHISTS FOR RCIA

As the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program prepares to move into the Catechumenate stage, the team are inviting interested parishioners to become Dismissal Catechists. Dismissal Catechists accompany catechumen's to reflect on the gospel after the homily at mass on a weekend. If you would like to be involved in this valuable ministry please contact Fr. Peter or John Clonan 0478770598

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

If you have celebrated your First Eucharist and would like to become more involved in the parish then altar server training is for you! Thursdays 4 – 5 pm in the St Alipius Church. Part One: 2nd August. Part Two: 9th August. (Part Two training in Ss Peter and Paul, Buninyong session to be negotiated). Please contact Rachel for any queries and to confirm your attendance. 0418312306 rallan@saballarat.catholic.edu.au

CHILDRENS' LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be held this week during 6.00pm Mass at St. Alipius. Toddlers are welcome with a supervising adult.

HOLY WEEK COMMEMORATION WITH ST ALIPIUS PRIMARY

On Holy Thursday, the St Alipius Parish School community will be commemorating Holy Week. It will include prayer and reflection, as well as students acting out significant events that occurred before Easter Sunday. You are most welcome to join us, beginning at 12 noon in the presbytery gardens. We hope to see you there!

ST ALIPIUS WINTER WOOLLIES DAY

On Friday 27th July, St Alipius Parish School will be having a 'Winter Woollies Day' in an effort to raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Other community organisations such as the Soup Bus, Shower Bus and Uniting Care will also be visiting our Learning Communities and sharing what they do to help those in need in our local community. We are also collecting thongs, socks and toiletries for the Shower Bus and blankets, gloves and beanies for Uniting Care. If you would like to contribute and/or donate any of these items please drop them into the school office by Thursday 26th July. Thank you!

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 — ST ALIPIUS PARISH

Diocesan wide regional gatherings to prepare leaders for dialogue sessions in parishes will be held in mid-October and will be facilitated by Lana Turvey Collins, Plenary Council Facilitator for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Plenary Council questions for contemplation: 1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time? 2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020? 3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith or the Church you would like to share?

2020 PLENARY COUNCIL PREPARATION — AN INVITATION

"A call to discern what the Spirit is saying to the people of God in Australia". An invitation is extended to all to join a *Plenary Council Gathering* at St Patrick's Hall on Sunday 29th July 2018 from 1.30pm – 3.30pm with speakers from "Catholics for Renewal". The Catholic Bishops of Australia are calling us to talk, listen and discern on what we feel our future church might be beyond 2020.

JOY SPREADING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage! Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. *There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.* **2018 Melbourne weekend dates : 17-19 August, and 9-11 November 2018.** Starts 7pm on Friday, ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information/Bookings: PH: Andre and Maria.0403569079 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website:www.wwme.org.au