

**Reflection on the Gospel-18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
(John 6:24-35)**

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

We have become so familiar with the sayings of Jesus that we can easily fail to notice the earth elements in the text or the constructed environment and treat them simply as backdrop for human activity rather than as having value in themselves. Jesus' claim "I am the bread of life" invites us to consider bread as matter essential to life as well as a metaphor for God's incarnate Word. It invites us to consider what both material and symbolic dimensions of the statement might mean for living a gospel way of life.

We might note the close attention in this passage to the material and social context of Jesus' words. Boats, a town (Capernaum), the sea (of Galilee), the land on the "other side" all feature in this text. For those who have visited Galilee and seen the first century boat preserved in Kibbutz Ginnosar, reference to boats might evoke the diversity of wooden materials used in boat construction, in this case mostly oak and cedar. It might also alert us to the human communities that interacted with the material world to build the boats so integral to the life of the lake communities.

Those who have seen images of Capernaum will be aware of the basalt building materials used in the construction of the houses and might be led to wonder at the extraordinary processes of rock formation. The Sea of Galilee has agency in so many gospel stories. Here it is mentioned in passing, but must not be ignored, especially as we become aware of how perilously endangered it has become since its waters have been exploited for irrigation over several decades. The "other side" evokes the rich agricultural land generally referred to as the "bread-basket" of the region. Mention of the crowd introduces children as well as women and men searching for Jesus. In other words, the text invites us into the whole Galilean world encoded in the text.

The question, "Rabbi, *when* did you come *here*?", has to do with time and place. Jesus is addressed as teacher, as one who can lead his questioners from one physical and metaphorical place to another. It is his response to this question that introduces the discussion about bread. This in turn opens up a whole world of earth activity, of sun and soil and seed and plant, a world of planting and harvesting, of processing and cooking. Ironically, the words of the Johannine Jesus with their focus on the symbolic meaning of the bread turn his questioners away from the physical, material Earth elements that constitute both bread and flesh. Pope Francis invites us again and again to value and respect the material world. The more we do so, the more attuned we will be to the implications of accepting that Jesus is the bread of life.

**18TH 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, 6th AUGUST 2018**

**MONDAY:** No Mass  
**TUESDAY:** No Mass  
**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	10.30 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	9.00 AM

**19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**READINGS** First: Kings 19:4-8  
Second: Ephesians 4:30- 5:2  
Gospel: John 6:41-51

**RECENT DEATHS:** Kathryn Young.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Judy Gleeson, Doreen Forbes, Hilda Mary Duggan.

**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 Sinnott, John Darroch., Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach.

### **COUNTING TEAMS:**

**This Week: Team 2:** B. Perkins©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.  
**Next Week: Team 3:** M. O'Donnell©, L. O'Donnell.

### **COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$	915.00
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	<u>1,745.00</u>
		\$	2,810.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$	649.00



### **WELCOME**

Welcome to Bishop Peter Connors who is kindly celebrating Mass for us this weekend in Fr. Peter's absence.

### **LITURGY ROSTERS**

Liturgy Rosters for August 11 to September 30 are available for pickup at the back of the church.

### **SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

Social afternoon will be held on Wednesday, 8th August at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

### **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 Two: 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Phone 0418312306, or email [rallan@saballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rallan@saballarat.catholic.edu.au).

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

None this weekend, will recommence next weekend.

### **ROSES**



As mentioned last week, thanks to the Sisters of Mercy, some of the old rose trees have been dug out and replaced with 40 new ones and the remaining trees pruned and fed. If any parishioner would also like to contribute toward the cost of the roses please put your donation in an envelope marked *Roses* and place it on the collection plate — it would be greatly appreciated.

### **FR GERRY PRUNTY 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

St Thomas' Terang and St Colman's Mortlake Parishes will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr Gerry Prunty's Ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday, August 12, with Mass commencing at 10.30am in Terang. A light luncheon will follow in the Sisters of Mercy Room at St Thomas' Primary School. All are welcome to attend. For catering purposes, please *RSVP* to the Parish Office, phone 5592 1195.

### **POPE FRANCIS ON DEATH PENALTY**

“Vatican City: Pope Francis has changed church teaching about the death penalty, saying in a new policy published Thursday August 2, 2018 that it is always "inadmissible" because it "attacks" the inherent dignity of all humans.” For full article go to <https://www.theage.com.au/world/europe/pope-francis-shifts-catholic-church-teaching-on-the-death-penalty-20180802-p4zv8i.html>.

### **PLENARY COUNCIL 2020**

**eConference: Synodality in Practice: Listening to the Spirit and Leading Change**

The 14th National eConference will focus on engaging communities around Australia in a landmark discussion around the future vision and direction for the Catholic Church in this country. This eConference can be viewed at the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Mackillop & Glowrey Rooms on Wednesday, August 8, from 10.00am - 3.00pm. All are welcome to attend. BYO lunch. For more information on the eConference go to <https://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-events/111/event/217/synodality-in-practice--listening-to-the-spirit-and-leading-change>

### **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?

### **Plenary Council Timeline Calendar**

Calendar of Events 2018—2020, copies are available at the back of the church.

### **RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS**

A brochure denouncing current attempts in federal parliament to overturn the Euthanasia Laws Act 1997 preventing the territories from legalising euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide is available for perusal at the back of the church.