

**Reflection on the Gospel-19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(John 6:41-51)**

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a Jew, as was John, the author of the gospel. It may seem strange, therefore, that John has the “Jews” complaining about Jesus. It is indeed strange, and it has caused many a reader to wonder. John seems to use the designation “Jew” as a code word for the opponents of Jesus. These opponents are almost exclusively Jewish leaders rather than the ordinary people who followed Jesus. The designation does not include all the Jewish leaders of course: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea stand out as leaders who came to believe in Jesus as the Christ and to take risks on account of their faith.

The complaint of the “Jews” relates to Jesus’ claim, “I am the bread that came down from heaven”. Jesus shares the world view or cosmology of his contemporaries: God is in the heavens above, so that anything or anyone coming from God in that view comes *down from heaven*. The problem for his adversaries is that Jesus is one of them: they know his father Joseph and his forebears, so how can he be making such a claim? They make the mistake of thinking that this is all there is to know about his origins. “Don’t complain” is Jesus’ response to them. He proceeds to tell them that there are dimensions of his being of which they know nothing. Yet they need to know, as do we. It is God who draws us to Jesus. Like the opponents of Jesus, we need to listen and to learn, to be taught by God. We need bread in order to live and we also need the bread of God’s teaching.

Jesus makes a future promise: the bread he offers is different from the bread the Israelites ate in the desert, in that those who eat of it will live forever. Furthermore, the bread that he will give for the life of the world is his flesh. This leads to further misunderstanding and the opportunity for Jesus to teach at another level. The eucharistic overtones in today’s reading are subtle but nonetheless present, as they were in the feeding story.

John is writing some seventy years after the death of Jesus for communities that gathered every week for the breaking of the bread-in remembrance of him and of all that he enacted. Like the early Christians, we reflect on the meaning of eucharist. We recognise and honour the materiality of the bread and of the flesh that Jesus shares with all living creatures. At the same time we are invited to reflect on the symbolic or metaphorical resonances of both bread and flesh in the context of the claims of the Johannine Jesus. The question for us then becomes: “How do we live into this extraordinary mystery as we face the demands of our endangered planet?”

19TH 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, 13th AUGUST 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: 5.00 pm at Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY: 9.30 am in Parish Church *(feast of The Assumption)*
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	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Proverbs 9:1-6
Second: Ephesians 5:15-20
Gospel: John 6:51-58

RECENT DEATHS: Robert Spiers.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mervyn Roach, Leo Roach, Mary Roach, Dennis O’Driscoll, Ethel O’Driscoll, Jim Caddy, Margie Goldsmith, Marbeth Torpy, Bill Maguire, Tess Maguire, Grace Clark, George Clark, Jacob McGarvy.

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, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 3: M. O'Donnell©, L. O'Donnell.
Next Week: Team 4: C. Tarquino©, M. Tarquino.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	1,394.60
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	<u>1,385.00</u>
		\$	2,929.60
PRESBYTERY:		\$	887.00



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Will be available this weekend at the Saturday Vigil Mass. Toddlers welcome with appropriate supervision.

FEAST OF ST MARY MACKILLOP

Wednesday, 8th August, Patron Saint of Australia

"Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God." (Mary MacKillop, 1891)

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

This weekend we welcome into the Order of Catechumens those inquirers who are now taking a significant step forward in their journey of faith supported by their parish sponsors - Anna Glenn, Liam McDonald, Ashley Rogers, Wendy Sanders and Melissa Watson. Together as a community let us encourage and support them in their faith journey as they will now regularly be dismissed from the community and be guided by our catechists to reflect upon the gospel.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

Parishioners are very welcome to come along and enjoy the delightful art produced by all the students from Foundation to Grade 6: SFX Art Exhibition, Thursday 16th August, 3.30pm – 6.00pm in the SFX Gym. Gold Coin Entry.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR 2020 ENROLMENT

Interested families and students are warmly invited to attend information evenings on Wednesday 5th September at 5pm, or Thursday 25th October at 6.30pm. Open Mornings with tours will be held on Thursday 13th September, 9am – 10.30am, and Thursday 1st November, 9am -10.30am. Please register your attendance online via the Damascus College website www.damascus.vic.edu.au. Enrolment applications for Year 7 2020 close on Friday 15th February 2019.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUPPORT SURVEY

This very short survey will collect valuable information about the support people need to enable them to action social justice initiatives within their communities. The information gathered will inform the design of an online resource accessible to all. The purpose of the survey is to find out what you want and need for learning about and living out social justice. There are only 12 statements to answer yes or no to. To complete the survey go to <https://goo.gl/forms/LSaONqXBRCCmLjwv1>.

WRITE TO SENATORS TO OPPOSE EUTHANASIA.

The Senate will soon vote on a Bill which would allow territories to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide. Please contact your senators TODAY and ask them to protect vulnerable people by voting against the Bill. Visit the HOPE website to send your message <http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/sign>.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Plenary Preparation in Ballarat Diocese – new leaflet

As part of the Plenary preparation process we are asked to consider and respond to three questions. Ballarat Diocese has prepared a leaflet giving information about this *Listening and Dialogue* process. You are asked to initiate this process in parishes and other communities and groups. Individuals can also respond. Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church. See leaflet On Notice Board. The leaflet and other Plenary information is on the Plenary page of the Ballarat Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 5337 7125.

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?

MUSIC MINISTRY FOR ALL

Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry has launched its Music Ministry project with user-friendly listings of wonderful songs (words and music) for Mass and other gatherings – all are available through One License. Featuring highly regarded musicians, Fr Rob Galea, Matt Maher and Steve Angrisano (all favourites at the Australian Catholic Youth Festivals). We will be adding to the lists over coming months, with music options for all. More details go to the Youth and Young Adult Ministry pages www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.