

**Reflection on the Gospel-24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 8:27-35)**

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Today's gospel reading leads us into a section of Mark's gospel that explores challenges confronting all disciples on their journey of faith. The first challenge is to clarify the nature of our commitment as disciples of Jesus. If we fail to understand who Jesus is, then we have little chance of understanding the nature of our own call to follow him. Two questions ("Who do *people* say that I am?" and "Who do *you* say that I am?") are addressed to our forbears in faith communities of the latter part of the first century and to Christians across the millennia. We are invited to hear these questions anew. Do we simply share what "the people" say about Jesus? Are we like Peter who has the right language but only partial insight? Or do we have the wisdom to seek a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus?

In response to Jesus' second question ("Who do you say that I am?"), Peter gets the words right: Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, God's anointed messenger. It becomes clear, however, that Peter has a very different notion from Jesus of what it means to be the Messiah or the Christ. This is understandable since there were diverse messianic expectations within first-century Judaism. Many expected a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the Roman occupiers and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Jesus, as God's Messiah, refuses the way of violent action. His way is to be true to his mission of bringing God's empire, even if it brings the most intense personal suffering. Peter refuses to accept a suffering Messiah. He is severely reprimanded for his refusal and instructed to get out of the way, to get back to where a disciple should be, namely behind Jesus, following him, and not in front obstructing the path to wisdom and life.

Our bitter experience of global conflicts in recent decades should make us wary of accepting militaristic messiahs. In our times, to know and follow Jesus as the Christos or Messiah is to seek and support more moderate and lasting responses to perceived injustice. It is to listen to the wisdom of those with insight and experience, to calculate with the utmost care the consequences of violent reactions to the problems in our world, in contemporary society, and in our homes. That may well involve hard work, personal misunderstanding, physical and emotional trauma or, in other words, it may mean "losing one's life" for the sake of the gospel. It certainly calls for profound trust in the saving power of God. Over the next few weeks, the Sunday gospels will call us into the ways of respect, of commitment, and of peaceful negotiation, to ever deeper insight into the ways of Jesus the Christ, the anointed agent of God's empire.

24TH 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, 17th SEPTEMBER 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 11.00 am Parish Church
THURSDAY: 11.00 am Parish Church
FRIDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Centre

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Second: James 3:16 - 4:3
Gospel: Mark 9:30.37

RECENT DEATHS: Gerald Rogers (Brother-in-Law to Jack Patton).
ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Dwyer, Mary Roach, Mary Curran, Demetria Patatal, Richard Purchell, Fred Harrison, Jack Roach, Michael Carter, Gladys Ashmore, Bill Armstrong .

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, Eleanor Keating.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 8: B. McKeegan©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.
Next Week: Team 9: J. Patton©, B. Brisbane, J.O'Brien.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1427.20
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 425.00
		\$ 2,002.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 817.60



WELCOME TO FATHER KEVIN ARUNDELL

We warmly welcome Fr Kevin Arundell who will be celebrating masses with us this weekend. Thank you for your generosity in ministering to us and sharing in our parish life.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER PETER

Life here in Leuven is an amazing experience. I must say it is a shock to the system to be in the student mode again. We are having three lectures a day and usually with some debrief time as well as some touring of the university and the various faculties. The university was founded in 1425 and has had an extraordinary influence in the Catholic tradition and the world. We are steeped in history here.

The lectures have been interesting with a strong concentration on the Enhancing Catholic School Identity of course but other lectures around Catholic teaching and today a great lecture on Inter Religious Dialogue.

We visited a Catholic secondary college just out of Ghent and spent the day hearing of the education system in Flanders. It is so different from our own system. We met with the principal and staff and students and gained some very interesting insights. Last week we visited Ypres, and the First World War cemeteries. This was a very moving place and very emotional. Grave after grave, soldiers of the war "Known unto God". We left a lot of prayers there.

We start the day with morning prayer prepared by members of the group and have celebrated several Eucharists at various places. Most special was in the crypt of Fr. Damian of Moloki. We celebrated Sunday Mass at the local Cathedral, it was in Dutch and they were celebrating the "man of the year". Very interesting.

We have three assignments to complete so that takes up the evening time. Now I know what a student feels like!

Hope all is well there and many thanks and appreciation. (Peter)

INVITATION TO PRAY WITH ST ALIPIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parishioners are welcome to join in the Whole School Prayer held every Friday during school terms at 9.00am in the McInerney Centre -- St Alipius Parish Primary School.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY NEXT WEEKEND

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

INVITATION TO PARISHIONERS OF ST PETER AND PAUL'S COMMUNITY BUNINYONG - RCIA TEAM MEMBER REQUIRED

The RCIA program is an enriching process for all involved, catechumens, sponsors, catechists and team members. To ensure our parish RCIA program runs effectively we require a parishioner from the Buninyong community to join our RCIA Team. Currently two of the five catechumens participating in our parish RCIA program have a connection with the Buninyong community and it would be ideal to provide dismissals for these within their community. RCIA team members participate in planning and presentation of the program including organising and preparing catechists and coordinating dismissals from St Peter and Paul's community as well as attending monthly RCIA catechumen meetings. If you would be interested in being involved in this significant ministry please contact the Parish Office Ph: 53326611 or John Clonan Ph: 0478770598.

WALK OF WITNESS FOR HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

Tuesday, September 18, 1.00pm at Federation Square followed by a walk through City to St Francis' Church, Melbourne. Parable of the Good Samaritan 12.30pm - 1.00pm at Federation Square. Walk of Witness 1.00pm - 2.00pm from Federation Square to St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne led by Bishop Mark Edwards OMI. Social Justice Statement Launch 2.00pm - 3.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Flyer on Notice Board.

OPENING AND BLESSING OF MERCY PLACE BALLARAT

Parishioners are welcome to attend the official Opening and Blessing of Mercy Place Ballarat that will take place on **Tuesday, 25th September at 10.00am**. Please note change of day and time. The Chapel will also be commissioned. Address: 60 Corbett Street, Ballarat East.

END OF SEASON OF CREATION 2018 TALK

An invitation is extended to a talk by Sr Adele Howard RSM who attended the two day conference at the Vatican on 5-6th July on the third anniversary of Laudato Si, titled "**Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth**" at St Patrick's hall, Ballarat on Saturday 29th September at 10.30am following 10.00am Mass at the Cathedral. All welcome, tea/coffee available

BALLARAT PLENARY COUNCIL GATHERINGS

The Ballarat Plenary Council Gatherings will take place on Wed 10 Oct, 7pm and Thu 11 Oct, 10am. Both gatherings will be held in the Ballarat Glowrey-MacKillop Hall Cathedral precinct. The gatherings provide an opportunity to hear from and meet Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, Facilitator of the Australian Plenary Council 2020 Preparation Team. All are invited to attend.

THE SWAG

Copies of the Spring edition of *The Swag* are now available in the foyer. Please feel welcome to take a copy home to read and then return for others to share.