

Reflection on the Gospel-33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 13:24-32)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

In the opening lines of today's gospel reading, there are clear echoes of two passages from the prophecy of Isaiah. The first passage reads, "For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light" (Isaiah 13:10). These images from Isaiah read like an unravelling of God's work in creation. The second passage likewise predicts a scenario that seems to reverse the Genesis creation account: "All the host of heaven [the constellations] shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall wither like a leaf withering on a vine, or fruit withering on a fig tree" (Isaiah 34:4). The prophet is using powerful poetic imagery to speak of God's judgment on the people of Israel who have strayed from their covenant relationship.

The parallel images in Mark 13 are referenced to the aftermath of the "time of distress" associated with the destruction of Jerusalem, a time of intense suffering for the community of believers. Jesus tells his disciples that, after all their suffering, strange cosmic phenomena will signal his return in glory and usher in a new age for God's people when the faithful will be gathered in. The message is intended to give comfort and hope to Mark's persecuted community of the late sixties or early seventies of the first century. Just as the new leaves on the fig tree signal the approach of summer, so too will the strange signs in the heavens signal Christ's coming and the onset of a new era, an end to the "time of distress". The message is thus one of encouragement for the community as they face an uncertain future rather than one of judgment.

The strange apocalyptic imagery and the ancient cosmology that has Jesus returning on the clouds need not distract the modern and scientifically sophisticated reader from hearing the call to trust in God no matter what happens. This reading may remind some of us that the unravelling of God's work is more than a poetic image in our times. The freak storms, the cyclones, and other signs of global warming we have seen might well serve as reminders to attend more carefully to the preservation of planet Earth. We may also hear a call to pay closer attention to what the "other-than-human" Earth elements can tell us about God and God's ways.

Tim Winton's memoir, *Island Home*, offers a contemporary reminder of who we are as planetary beings, of what we have done to our planet and of how attentiveness to land and landscape is integral to being who we are. The wild fig or the black-flanked rock wallabies, for instance, may be more eloquent teachers than we had ever realised.

33RD 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

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

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 19th NOVEMBER 2018

MONDAY:

No Mass

TUESDAY:

5.00 pm Mercy Centre (Victoria St)

WEDNESDAY:

9.30 am Mercy Centre (Victoria St)

THURSDAY:

9.30 am Parish Church

FRIDAY:

11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)

9.30 am Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS

SAT 6.00 PM

SUN 10.30 AM

BUNINYONG

SUN 9.00 AM

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING—YEAR B

READINGS

First: Daniel 7:13-14

Second: Apocalypse 1:5-8

Gospel: John 18:33-37

RECENT DEATHS:

Lucille Hogsett.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Kevin Howlett, Hanoria Callahal,
Margaret Maddighan, Laurence Galvin, Eris Blood, Pahay Dhay,
James Roach, Tom Torpy, Andrew O'Brien.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh,
Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnott,
John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach, Eleanor Keating,
Terry Foran, Cathy Jones.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 5:

J. Moran©, B. Forbes.

Next Week: Team 6:

M. Stewart©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 889.20
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 425.00
		\$ 1,464.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,113.00

ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL – ELECTION BBQ

St Alipius Primary School is again hosting a polling booth – for the State Election on *Saturday 24th November*. There will be a BBQ, drinks and coffee van, please come along and support the school community and you can vote at the same time!

SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE

Enjoy a special screening of “The Grinch” at the Regent Cinemas Ballarat on *Sunday 2nd December 2018*. Tickets cost \$15 each and can be purchased via Flexischools <https://www.flexischools.com.au/>

JESSE TREE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are sought to help assist in the writing of gift tags and tying ribbon attachments for the Advent Jesse trees for St Alipius and Ss Peter & Paul’s Churches at a little workshop in the parish hall on *Wednesday 28th November at 10.00am*. Help will also be required to assist in delivering gifts to the institutions we support between the *17th & 20th December*. Any queries please contact Marg McCarty on 0423 208 286.

ANOINTING MASS

The anointing mass will held on *Wednesday 5th December at 2 pm*. Following mass there will be afternoon tea in the hall. We would appreciate donations of food for the afternoon tea. Anyone requiring transport please contact any member of the Caring Group or the parish office..

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our annual Christmas Appeal. We are most grateful for the support received from our parish as it enables us to continue our assistance to those in need in the local area. To give an insight into the need that exists within the area - in the past year the Society distributed support to the value of \$661,000. Of this amount, \$111,000 went to Ballarat East residence. In addition, our bread run provided goods to the value of \$24,000 annually. Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall. All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

CAN YOU HELP?

A refugee man recently settled in Ballarat still requires a washing machine (a TV and dining setting has been donated, thank you). Also, a lawn mower is still sought for a refugee family. If you could help please contact Margaret on 0402 498 644.

CATHOLIC MISSION ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those parishioners who have already donated. If you wish to contribute to the work of mission, it is not too late. Please place your donation into a clearly marked envelope and place onto the collection plate. Your prayers and financial support is greatly appreciated.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GLOBAL GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This year Caritas Australia’s Christmas focus is to “*Cherish the miracle of motherhood now, and into the future*”. Purchase of a ‘global gift’ takes the form of a monetary donation towards the gift of water, food or building sustainable livelihoods. Global Gift Christmas cards can also be purchased to send to your family and friends. Please visit www.globalgifts.org.au . Brochures with more information are available in the church foyer.

KIDS-OFF-NAURU RALLY FOR UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Tuesday the 20th is Universal Children's Day and the end of the official campaign to get KIDS-OFF-NAURU. The aim of the campaign was to get all children and their families off Nauru by the 20th November 2018. Ballarat Rural Australians for refugees (RAR) and The Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children (GADRC) are holding a rally outside Catherine Kings Office on *Tuesday 20th November 11am - 12 noon*. Everyone is welcome to join us. Flyer in church foyer.

JUNE 2019 CATHEDRAL PARISH HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

An information session will be held at *6.00pm on Wednesday, November 21, 2018* in the Ballarat Cathedral Presbytery for the June 9 – 22, 2019 pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Fr Justin Driscoll and Leonie Spencer from Lifestyle Travel in Ballarat invite interested people to 'come and see'. This pilgrimage will include Petra in Jordan, the Dead Sea, Mt Nebo, Madaba, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Ein Kerem, Jericho and Quamran.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2019 STUDY TOUR

2019 Study Tour: ‘Footsteps of Faith’: Encountering the Christian Tradition. Ireland England, and Italy. 19th September – 15th October 2019. Tour Leaders: Rev. Dr Max Vodola, Dr Frances Baker rsm, and Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper omi AM.

Details on College website. Information Session on *Saturday 24 Nov 11 am – 1 pm*. RSVP: Jenny Delahunt T: 9412 3314, email jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au.

JOY+ YOUTH FESTIVAL!

Joy+ Youth Festival for 15-30 yo. *Sunday, November 25*, Cathedral Precinct, Ballarat 2.00pm - 8.00pm. Fantastic music with Genevieve Bryant and band, special guests include Sam Clear and Sr Elizabeth Young. This is a free event including evening meal. Breakout sessions include music making with Genevieve - feel free to bring musical instrument. Come for all or part of the day. Please register online for our planning. Details on youth ministry page www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

JOY SPREADING

The next Joy Spreading event for young adults (18–30 yo) will be held *Friday, December 7, 2018 from 6.30pm – 9.00pm* in the Cathedral Parish Office meeting room with guest speaker Fr Justin Driscoll. An opportunity for young Catholic adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. Festive snacks and drinks provided. Info: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph: 5337 7160.