

**Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of Christ the King, Year B
(John 18:33-37)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The liturgical year always ends with the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King. The gospel reading for Year B is from John's gospel where the notion of God's kingdom or reign or empire features only twice in contrast with its frequent appearance in the other gospels, especially Matthew. For readers in a Western society where democratic rule is valued and promoted, the whole notion of kingship or monarchy poses some difficulty. We need to put the exchange between Jesus and Pilate into the political context of Roman occupied Judaea of the first century.

Rome was the dominant global force at that time. It had the economic and military strength to maintain its power over the whole Mediterranean world. When Jesus tells Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world, he is not pitting planet Earth or the cosmos over against a purely spiritual world. He is referring rather to the world and values of the Roman Empire and the destructive values that are sometimes espoused by his followers. Jesus' way of being in the world stands in stark contrast with the expansionist and frequently destructive ways of Roman rule.

The term "world" is used in two different senses in John's gospel, both literally and metaphorically. On the one hand, it is the world that came into being through the Word (1:10), the beautiful cosmos or world that "God so loved" (3:16). On the other hand, it is a "world" that rejected the light (1:10-11), a sinful world in need of the saving power of God (3:17).

Jesus, as king, does not claim the sort of over-bearing political, military or economic power that Pilate exercises on behalf of the Roman emperor. His authority has nothing to do with power over or domination of others. It is grounded in truth (1:17) or, in other words, in the revelation of God. Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life" (14:6) and his mission is to testify to the truth. The path to freedom and life lies in acceptance of the truth (8:32): "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

To celebrate this feast, then, is to move in the direction of peaceful solutions to the conflicts in our world and away from the paths of violence and domination. It is to seek the truth in dialogue and to respond to the plight of those who suffer the pain of hunger, of persecution and of loss. It is to rule as God rules and not as Rome ruled. It is to look again at how we inhabit our world and to change our ways for the sake of truth and life, the present and future life of our beleaguered planet.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING — 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, 26th 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
11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY: 9.30 am Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR C

READINGS
First: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Second: Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
Gospel: Luke 21:25-28,34-36

RECENT DEATHS: Barry Mitchell, Allan Hancock.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tracey Howard, Anne Veronica Duck.

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 6: M. Stewart©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.
Next Week: Team 7: K. Cummins©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,191.20
	Loose:	\$ 150.00
	Credit Cards:	\$ 3,237.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ 1,746.20
		\$ 6,324.40
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 857.00



PARISH CENSUS – UPDATING OUR RECORDS & CONFIDENTIALITY

Over the next two weekends we are inviting parishioners to fill in a census card in order for the parish to have up-to-date information of contact details. This information is confidential to the parish with limited access only to parish staff. If you would like to receive the notice-sheet/bulletin via email please indicate in the comments section and write your email address on the card. The notice-sheet can be emailed on Friday afternoon. Many thanks – Fr Peter.

JOB VACANT

The parish is inviting expressions of interest for a volunteer position to record the weekly envelope contribution of parishioners onto our database to generate annual statements, etc. Around one hour a week. Keyboard experience helpful – will be taught and supported by Jim Moran. Please contact Lucy at the Parish Office if you would like to be considered. Confidentiality would be essential. Thank you, Fr Peter.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

A social afternoon will be held on *Wednesday 28th November* in the Mercy Centre at 2.00pm. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – AGM REMINDER

An invitation to all members of our School and Parish Community to attend our 2018 Annual General Meeting to be held in the McInerney Centre on *Wednesday 28th November at 6.30pm* for a 7pm start. Light refreshments provided.

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/>

“OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY” MAGAZINE

The latest issue of *Our Diocesan Community* is available in the church foyer this weekend.

ST ALIPIUS' LITURGY ROSTERS

Liturgy rosters are available this weekend near the piety stall; electronic copies emailed.

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.

REUNION – YCW CRICKET CLUB

A get-together of former YCW cricketer, families and supporters will be held on *Sunday, 2nd December 2018*. Further details contact Terry 0401 730 670 or John 0409 864 080.

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..

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.

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 we received from our parish as it enables us to continue our assistance to those in need in the local area. We share with you the following facts to give an insight into the need that exists within the Ballarat Area. In the 12-month period from 1/11/17 the Society distributed support to the value of \$661,000. This equates to \$12,700 per week. Of this amount \$111,000 went to Ballarat East residence. In addition to this 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.

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.

“AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED” CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation that has operated in Australia for over fifty years. We are the only international Catholic charity that focuses on the spiritual and pastoral support of Christians who are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. Currently, some 200 million Christians world-wide cannot freely exercise their faith. All proceeds from the items in the catalogue assist our work which amounts to over 5000 projects each year in more than 140 countries. Catalogues are available in the church foyer or visit shop@aidtochurch.org.