

**Reflection on the Gospel — Easter 2C
(John 20:19-31)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

This weekend we celebrate the second of eight Sundays of the Easter Season which culminates in the Feast of Pentecost. In other words, we recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith.

The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of those who had handed Jesus over to be executed by the Roman authorities. Again, it is the first day of the week, evoking the first day of creation. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit.

The story invites us to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the fear of reprisals in our pursuit of justice and peace. It also invites us to ponder the consequences of forgiving on the one hand and of not forgiving on the other. To forgive another is to release that person from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness opens up the possibility of healing for all concerned. To refuse forgiveness or to "retain" the sins of another is to leave that person unforgiven and so unhealed. We might also consider the consequences of refusing to open ourselves to forgiveness. Those who refuse to forgive others have often failed to forgive themselves for their own shortcomings.

The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own first-hand experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. Then they make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else already knows. If we think, however, that those who hear from the outset are any better than Thomas, we need to note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled their fears. We all need time to grasp what it means to say that Christ has been raised. Biblical scholar, Margaret Daly-Denton notes that, in the Jewish tradition, "the eighth day symbolized the aeon to come". Like John's community we live in "the eighth day", in resurrection time, the time of the new creation. Easter faith invites us, for the sake of the whole Earth community, to keep living into that reality.

2nd Sunday of Easter — Year C



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, 29th APRIL 2019**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: No Mass
WEDNESDAY: 9.30 am Mercy Centre (Victoria St)
THURSDAY: 11.00 am Mercy Place (Corbett St)
FRIDAY: 9.30 am St Alipius' Church

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT 4th May	6.00 PM
	SUN 5th May	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN 5th May	10.30 AM

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR C

READINGS First: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
Second: Apocalypse 5:11-14
Gospel: John 21:1-19

BAPTISMS: Olivia Lee, Lily Mahar

RECENT DEATH: Brian Devereux

ANNIVERSARIES: Carole Steenhuis

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnot, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Alison Rice, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 5: J. Moran©, B. Forbes
Next Week: Team 6: M. Stewart©, R. Reynolds, M. Anderson

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	1743.65
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Credit Cards:	\$	5082.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	205.00
		\$	7180.65
PRESBYTERY		\$	1597.00



DAMASCUS COLLEGE FREE COMMUNITY EVENT – GUEST SPEAKER

Damascus College warmly invites you to attend “Developing Parents’ Digital Literacy and Tackling Cyberbullying” presented by *Project Rockit*. **Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 7pm – 8.30pm in the John Shannon Centre, Damascus College.** Book your FREE tickets at damascus.vic.edu.au.

CARING GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on Friday 3rd May at 10 a.m. in the St. Alipius Hall. All Welcome.

BLESSING AND REOPENING OF Ss PETER & PAUL’S CHURCH HALL

The reopening and blessing of the renovated old church at Ss Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong, will occur on **Sunday 5th May after 10:30 Mass**. Please bring a plate to share for a light lunch / refreshments etc. as our community celebrates the completion of this wonderful project!

SEEKING PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTOR

Could the parishioner who uses envelope number 141 please contact the parish office? Many thanks.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Copies of ‘Our Diocesan Community’ are now available in the church foyer.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2019

The new Parish Stewardship Program for 2019 commenced last weekend. If you haven’t yet completed a pledge card, you are invited to do so. Pledge cards are available on the table at the rear of the church. Completed cards may be placed in the collection basket. The Groups & Ministries responses are being processed and all those who responded will be contacted in the very near future. Your support in this key area of parish life is very much appreciated. Thank you once again.

BEST WISHES TO FR PETER

Fr Peter will commence his sabbatical leave following celebration of our parish masses this weekend. The parish extends its best wishes to you, Fr Peter, and trust that your time away will indeed be restorative and rejuvenating!

CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ FEDERAL ELECTION STATEMENT

The bishops call for respect in public debate, share Catholic social teaching and detail some key issues to reflect on before you vote. “*Politics in service of peace: a statement by the Catholic bishops of Australia for the 2019 federal election*” can be found at www.catholic.org.au

PRE-ELECTION FORUM

You are invited to attend a pre-election forum to hear the viewpoints of the Candidates for Ballarat on *Issues for a Compassionate and Just Society* and to ask them your questions. It is being held on **Monday 29th April, 6.00 pm - 7.45 pm** at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church, corner of Dana & Lydiard Sts, Ballarat.

GRIEF TO GRACE – HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE

Grief to Grace is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26-31, 2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftoGrace.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.griefftoGrace.org

RECEIVING MASS-SHEET VIA EMAIL

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to receive the weekly mass-sheet via email. To add your name to the distribution list, please drop off a note to the parish office or email ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au stating your name. Families or couples are welcome to list more than one email address if that is desired.

THANK YOU FROM GERRY DUCK

I wish to extend my heartfelt thank you to Fr Peter and the St Alipius community following the passing of my brother, Michael Duck. It was wonderful to see how warmly Michael had been welcomed back into the parish community after he was away for about 30 years. Given the large numbers of people who attended Michael’s funeral it has been a great comfort to me. May God bless you all. Gerry

THANK YOU FROM ANNA GLENN

I would like to thank all the parishioners of our Church for their overwhelming kindness, acceptance and support whilst I have been going through the RCIA program. Even before our journey to Baptism, I have always felt welcomed by all. Anna

PASTORAL MINISTRY FORMATION 2019

A 20 week, part time Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program commencing August 8 concluding December 19 is being offered for those seeking formal qualifications in pastoral ministry in Terang. CPE is accredited with the Victorian CPE association and recognised as two units towards theological studies if one enrolls through the University of Divinity. Placements have been offered at Mercy Aged Care and St John of God. Faith community placements can be arranged through a process of negotiation and acceptance of suitable applicants. Applications close May 17. For further information and an application form contact: Bernadette Wurlod bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au 0455 033 321 (Clinical Pastoral Supervisor & Centre Director Adjunct Lecturer University of Divinity). Websites: www.asacpev.org.au and www.ballarat.catholic.org.au