

**Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 3C
(John 21:1-19)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

March 25 this year saw the publication of Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*. The Pope addresses his words to "young people and to the entire people of God". Quite early in the document, there is a call for the church to be a "living church", a church that is "attentive to the legitimate claims of those women who seek greater justice and equality" (par. 42). For Johannine scholar, Elizabeth Dowling RSM, this would entail a return to the spirit of the early chapters of John's gospel.

John's final chapter marks an unfortunate shift in the portrayal of gender roles, a shift that would seem to reflect struggles in the early church to accept women in leadership roles. The focus is clearly on Peter, on his role as leader and his relationship with Jesus. In John 20, it is not at all clear that Peter has come to resurrection faith, while there is no such doubt about the faith of Mary of Magdala. It is she who receives the first resurrection appearance and she who is commissioned to proclaim the news of the resurrection to the other disciples.

In Chapter 21, Peter goes fishing and several of the other disciples join him. They catch nothing. At dawn, they see the figure of Jesus on the shore. His disciples, with the exception of the "beloved disciple", do not recognise him immediately. They follow his instructions and find themselves overwhelmed with their catch. At the invitation of Jesus, they breakfast on bread and fish. This provides the setting for the rehabilitation of Peter, already foreshadowed in his decision to clothe his naked body. In the wake of his three-fold denial, Peter makes a three-fold profession of love of Jesus. This brings with it the responsibility of tending not only his "sheep" but also his "lambs". This command has particular resonance for a church that has failed so many of its children.

While the passage is filled with symbolism, we might pause to appreciate the materiality underlying the symbols. Fishing is an important gospel metaphor for ministry. The number of fish (153) probably denotes the universality of the mission. The 30% decline in large fish species in my country provides a sober reminder that the mission must include the natural world as never before. The untorn net is a symbol of unity, like the seamless garment in the passion narrative. The verb "to draw" has several layers of meaning in this fishing context: the disciples were not able "to *draw* in the net....so Simon Peter went aboard and *drew* the net ashore". These statements evoke earlier sayings of Jesus, particularly his words on the cross, "And I if I am lifted up from the earth will draw *all* to myself" (12:32). The "all" allows for the whole Earth community, human and more-than-human, to be drawn to the crucified and resurrected One, despite the failures of the past.

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR C

*Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

ST ALIPIUS PARISH — BALLARAT EAST

St Alipius' Parish Church

84 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

St Peter & Paul's Church

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Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours: 9.30am—1.30am Tue, Thu & Fri

Parish Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

CLERGY & STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Sherman

Administrator: Fr Kevin Maloney VG

Parish Coordinator: Lucy O'Beirne

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Parish Bereavement Coordinators:

Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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| ST. ALIPIUS | SAT 11th May | 6.00 PM |
| | SUN 12th May | 10.30 AM |
| BUNINYONG | SUN 12th May | 9.00 AM |

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR C

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|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| READINGS | First: Acts 13:14, 43-52 |
| | Second: Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17 |
| | Gospel: John 10:27-30 |

BAPTISMS: Archie McClounan, Jimmy McClounan, Hugo McClounan, Jed Conder, Ella Conder, Lincoln Conder

RECENT DEATH: Kevin Walsh

ANNIVERSARIES: Helen Ronan, Brian Walsh, Molly Walsh, Lena Clohesy and Michael Clohesy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH: Envelopes: \$ 1862.50
Loose: \$ 150.00
Direct Debits: \$ 695.00
\$ 2707.50

PRESBYTERY \$ 952.00



WELCOME TO FR KEVIN

A very warm welcome is extended to Fr Kevin Maloney, Vicar General, who is generously administrating our parish during Fr Peter's leave. It is a pleasure to have you sharing in our community, Fr Kevin, and trust you'll enjoy your time with us!

MASS-SHEET PRODUCTION

Due to time constraints, the mass-sheet will be the old familiar version for the time being. Many thanks must go to Ann Agni who has contributed a lot of her time and skill to produce the bulletin in recent times but is currently taking a break from it.

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.

BUNINYONG JAM SESSION

A big thankyou to all who took part in the "Buninyong Jam Session". The Event raised \$160 for Project Compassion.

EVENTS

A social afternoon will be held on **Wednesday 8th May** in the Mercy Centre at **2.00pm**. Please enter via Gent St. All welcome.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY THROUGH THE RCIA PROGRAM

At our Easter Vigil we welcomed Anna Glenn, Melissa Watson, Wendy Sanders and Elizabeth McCartin into full communion with the Catholic Church in the community of St Alipius. Congratulations to you all! It has been a privilege for our community to accompany you on your journey of faith. We express our appreciation to our sponsors and catechists who have been an integral part of the program. Fr Peter, John and Kristen

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

In a new arrangement this year Grade 4 students across our parish will be celebrating the conferment of both Confirmation and First Eucharist during the same mass. The sacraments will be conducted at the following masses and we offer our prayers, support and welcome to all the children and their families.

| DATE | TIME | CHURCH | HOST SCHOOL |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sat. 11 th May | 6.00 pm | St Alipius | St Francis Xavier |
| Sat. 18 th May | 6.00 pm | St Alipius | St Francis Xavier |
| Sun. 19 th May | 9.00 am | St Alipius | St Francis Xavier |
| Sat. 25 th May | 6.00 pm | St Alipius | St Alipius Primary |
| Sun. 26 th May | 10.30 pm | St Alipius | St Alipius Primary |
| Sat. 1 st June | 6.00 pm | St Alipius | Emmaus Catholic PS |
| Sun. 2 nd June | 9.00 am | St Alipius | Emmaus Catholic PS |
| Sun. 2 nd June | 10.30 am | Ss Peter & Paul's | Emmaus Catholic PS |

LITURGY AT ST ALIPIUS PARISH

Time & Talents

Thank you to everyone who has completed a Parish Ministry Survey – It is pleasing to see both continuing and new participants contributing to our parish life. For people new to a ministry you will be contacted by your new ministry Team Leader over the coming weeks. During June/July there will be training made available so you can participate in your chosen ministry effectively with the aim to start putting you on the roster commencing early August.

Liturgy Committee

A Liturgy Committee is being established over the coming months where Team Leaders and some general parish members will meet regularly to plan the liturgy for our weekend Masses. A 'Steering Group' met last week to discuss ways of moving forward in the establishment of a Liturgy Committee. As the Committee is establishing we'll keep you up to date in this newsletter along with our new liturgy website at "sapliturgy.net.au".

Liturgy Roster - St Alipius Community

The Liturgy Roster commencing the weekend of May 11/12 is being organised over this coming week. Thanks to those people who have indicated their unavailability. The Parish is building the roster in a software application called "ZenShifts" and each participant will receive a reminder each time you're rostered on by sms, email or both. This system will enable the Team Leaders to manage swaps between participants from week to week and have a roster that can easily be updated and relevant, right through till the last week of the roster.

The Roster will be available for download from the sapliturgy.net.au website from next weekend and physical copies will be left in the church porch. These won't be named, so if you aren't in the position to download your roster, please take one from the church porch next weekend.

Liturgy Roster - Sts Peter & Paul Community

For the next little while, the liturgy roster will continue to be managed by Bob and Mike. More information to follow next week. Kind regards, David Santamaria (St Alipius Parish Liturgy Convener)