

Reflection of the Gospel-Easter 4C
(John 10:27-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel is amazingly reassuring for those who truly hear the voice of Jesus. He "knows" them. These are the ones who "follow" him, those who live as he lived, caring for the "flock". There is a sense of mutuality in hearing and in being known. The inheritance of the "known" ones is "eternal" or never-ending life. In other words, they participate in God's way of being in the world. Just as the shepherds of the ancient world protected their flocks, so the followers of Jesus are secure in his "hand", secure in the "hand" of God, for Jesus and "the Father" are one. Later in John's gospel, Mary Magdalene will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one whom Jesus "knows". Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd, founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk, take their inspiration from the gospel image of Jesus as shepherd. They continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. In recent years they have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation". Their foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act? They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and difficulties – no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night they are on guard against wolves—they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek to care for our threatened Earth community.

For the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. John's gospel evokes that tradition. It also evokes the figure of David, the shepherd boy who was destined to become king and to shepherd God's people. For biblical scholar Margaret Daly-Denton, the Israelite understanding of kingship is "shepherding done in the name of the true Shepherd of Israel (Ps. 80.1), the kind of care that reveals the divine 'care-fulness'" (*John: An Earth Bible Commentary*, T&T Clark, 2017, 144). Those who hear the voice of Jesus are called to that kind of care for one another and for our planetary home.

4TH 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

Ss Peter & Paul's Church

701 Fiskens St, BUNINYONG 3357

Telephone: 5332 6611

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

WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 13th MAY 2019

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

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT 18th May	6.00 PM
	SUN 19th May	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN 19th May	10.30 AM

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR C

READINGS	First:	Acts 14:21-27
	Second:	Apoc 21:1-5
	Gospel:	John 13:31-35

BAPTISMS: Banjo Blood, Rafferty Blood, Scarlet Eldridge

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Bettles, Mary Hogan, Bernard Blood, Michael Casey, Robert Casey, Francis Roach, Owen Callaghan

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 7: K. Cummins©, B. Hood, J. O'Meara, G. Duck
Next Week: Team 8: B. McKeegan©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	749.00
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	565.00
		\$	1464.00
PRESBYTERY		\$	1027.00



WELCOME TO OUR VISITING SEMINARIAN

A warm welcome is extended to Vinco Muriyadan who will be helping Fr Kevin celebrate masses in our parish this weekend. Vinco is currently studying at the Corpus Christi Seminary in Melbourne. Welcome, Vinco!

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

"INTEGRITY IN THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH"

Integrity in the Service of the Church is a resource document outlining five principles and standards for Lay Workers and Volunteers in the Catholic Church in Australia. Parishioners are encouraged to view this important document which is presented as a poster and can be found on the noticeboards of our church foyers.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset..... Your Marriage!

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. *There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.* **2019 Melbourne weekend dates: 31 May-2 June 2019, 23-25 August 2019, and 15-17 November, 2019. Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.** Information/Bookings: PH: Mercy and James 0409 183 676 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: www.wwme.org.au

FINAL MASS AT LAVERS HILL

The Final Mass for Sacred Heart Church, Lavers Hill will be celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 2.00pm. All welcome.

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

Celebration of these sacraments will commence at our vigil mass this weekend with the first group from SFX Primary School; congratulations! We offer our prayers, support and welcome to all the children and their families. Upcoming celebrations are:

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	HOST SCHOOL
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 NEWS

New Liturgy Rosters Now Available

The new liturgy roster for May 18 through to July 28 inclusive, is now available online via the *St Alipius Liturgy Team* website www.sapliturgy.net.au. Paper copies for those who need them are now available near the piety stall. Any queries or updates can be made through this website by going to 'Contact' and following the prompts. For people without access to a computer or who would like some assistance please contact Lucy in the parish office. A huge thank you goes to David Santamaria who is generously and capably developing this new system which utilises the 'Zenshifts' program to provide individualised alerts for participants.

Liturgy Roster - Ss Peter & Paul's Community

For the next little while, the liturgy roster will continue to be managed by Bob and Mike. Current participants will be contacted by Bob or Mike over the coming weeks to ascertain your availability for the liturgical ministries. The intention is that the roster for the Ss Peter & Paul's community will also be organised through Zenshifts and distributed from the St Alipius Liturgy website with physical copies available in the church porch from the June/July roster.

The SAP Liturgy Website

www.sapliturgy.net.au

This website has been created so that the liturgy resources for Sunday Mass are available to those involved in the liturgical ministries and the parish community in general.

- For musicians, you will see the list of music that is intended to be used for the next few Sundays - check out the song chart, listen to the song, read the lyrics;
- For readers, click on the links to read the readings for each week during the year & prepare yourself to read the scripture with energy and story-telling;
- For all those involved in the liturgical ministries, download your roster for the coming period;
- For general parishioners, give us feedback on your experience at Mass, or put your name forward to be trained in one (or more) of the ministries.

We look forward to the parish having continued, engaging experiences at Mass and to induct our new participants in your nominated liturgical ministries. Thank you. David Santamaria (Liturgy Convenor)