

Reflection on the Gospel-Presentation in the Temple Year A (Luke 2:22-40)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

This year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We might ask why this feast is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has Jesus teaching in the Jerusalem Temple at twelve years of age. He has come with his parents on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast of Passover. Luke notes that the family makes this pilgrimage from Nazareth in Galilee to Jerusalem every year. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews.

Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures. The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

Anna, like Simeon, raises her voice in the courts of the Jerusalem Temple, the heart of Israel's religious, political and economic power. While Simeon is given direct prophetic speech, Anna's prophesying is recounted indirectly. While Elizabeth and Mary proclaim prophetic words, Anna is the only woman in Luke's gospel to be named as "prophet". This woman prophet proclaims the good news of salvation in Jesus. The verbal form used indicates that Anna "keeps on speaking" about the child to "all who await the redemption of Jerusalem." The invitation here might be for us to emulate Anna's courage and persistence as we enter the halls of power and seek to move the hearts of religious and political leaders to compassion and justice for all those displaced within the Earth community.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH — BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD — YEAR A, SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2020

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

St Alipius' Parish Church
82 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

SS Peter & Paul's Church
701 Fiskens St, BUNINYONG

Contact Details

Parish Office & Presbytery: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350

Hours: 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Thurs, Fri

Telephone: 5332 6611

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

SAP Liturgy website: www.sapliturgy.net.au

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Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge De Chavez OSJ

In Residence: Fr. Eladio Lizada OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Lucy O'Beirne

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Hall Caretaker: Gavin Maguire

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Parish Finance Committee Members:

Brett Holloway (outgoing Chair), Kathy Curran,
Arnoud Goossens, Tanya Hislop, Paul Jans,
Gerard McCarty & John White

Masses This Week

Thursday, 6th February	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Church
Thursday, 6th February	11.00 am	Mercy Place (Corbett Street)
Friday, 7th February	9.30 am	SFX School Opening Mass — St. Alipius' Church

Weekly Rosary: Thursdays 10.30 am Ss Peter & Paul's Chapel, Buninyong

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday, 8th February	6.00 pm
	Sunday, 9th February	10.30 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday, 9th February	9.00 am

Readings: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First: Isaiah 58:7-10

Second: Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Anniversaries: Kevin Mullane

Unwell: We pray for Kateri Byrne, Pat Hogan, Cathy Jones, Peter Martin, Letitia Simmons, Margie Wilmott and all who are unwell

Welcome back to School Communities! We hope everyone has enjoyed a good break.

Plenary Council 2020 — Nominations for Delegates

Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Please collect a copy of Bishop Paul's letter in the church foyer or via www.ballarat.catholic.org.au . Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by **Friday, 7th February, 2020**.

Next Parish Plenary Listening & Discernment Gatherings

Sessions will be held on Monday 17th Feb 7.00pm—9.00pm and Tuesday, 18th Feb 1.00pm—3.00pm in the St Alipius' Hall. The topic for reflection is *How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Prayerful and Eucharistic*. Snapshot reports to support reflection are available in the church foyers.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next gathering for those discerning the model for a Parish Pastoral Council in St Alipius' Parish will be held Monday February 24th at 7.00pm with Loreto Sister Rachel McLoughlin.

Caring Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held on Friday 7th February in the St. Alipius Hall at 10 am. All welcome.

Commencement of Weekly Rosary

Rosary will be offered weekly at 10.30am in the chapel of Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong, for the special intentions of Our Blessed Mother, for priests, and peace and harmony in the world. All welcome. Enquiries: Danny 0433 323 870 or Hugh 0419 755 752

Mass of the Oils: Monday 6th April

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, 6th April. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. Whilst we celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests, this Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2020, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to this celebration.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 5:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds
Next Week: **Team 6:** K. Cummins©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 996.00
Loose: \$ 300.00
Direct Debits: \$ 485.00
\$ 1781.00

Presbytery: \$ 823.00

*Thank you to those who
contributed to the
collections last weekend*

Follow-up on the Stewardship Groups and Ministries results 2019

We have two more categories left to provide feedback. This week we look at parishioner responses received for Administration / Committees:

- 2 Banking / Book-keeping
- 10 Counters
- 5 Occasional Help in Parish Office
- 2 Parish Community Team / Council
- 1 Bulletin Preparation
- 2 Finance Committee
- 1 Parish Child Safety Team
- 1 Stewardship Records

Catholic Women's League Social Afternoon — revised date

The CWL Cathedral Branch will meet for February at Nazareth House Parlour on **Tuesday February 4th at 1.30pm**. This will be a Social Afternoon and all ladies of the Parishes are invited to come along. Anna Krohn will give an update of Branch events for the year along with the Diocesan events and the installation of the Catholic Womens League of Australia at the inaugural Mass at St. Patricks Cathedral, Melbourne on February 9th. You are asked to bring a friend and new members and inquiries are welcome. Members please bring some afternoon tea. Inquiries 0401 175 045.

menAlive

Men Alive Ballarat commences for 2020 at 7:30pm Friday Feb 7th, 21st and Thursday 5th of March – Nazareth House Reading Room “Nazzy Nook”. **menALIVE** is a National Catholic Ministry to Men. The purpose of **menAlive** is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God and to encourage them become an active force of renewal in the Church. Locally it is gathering of men once a fortnight for 1.5hrs in a supportive environment encouraging comradery. No membership – just your presence. Ballarat chapter enquires and leadership please text or call Chris 0437 318 251. For more information on the national Catholic Men's opportunities faith and family weekends visit www.menalive.org.au .

Cosy Koala Fundraiser for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal

Hosted by YESS Youth Ballarat on **Sunday 2nd February** 11:30am-5:00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Community Hall Ballarat. Enjoy BBQ and bake sale, live music, second hand clothes, toys, books and small furniture for sale. **CALLING FOR DONATIONS** – please register donations via email yessballarat@gmail.com. Your items can be dropped off on the day and become part of the sale. In partnership with our volunteers, any items not sold will be donated to the St Vincent De Paul Society. Please see flyer in church foyer.

Support those affected by Bushfires

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has provided information and resources to support those affected by the bushfires and this is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or www.catholic.org.au/bushfires . The diocesan website also has media releases from Catholic Mission and Caritas regarding ways they are supporting those in bushfire affected areas. St Vincent de Paul is collecting donations for the *Vinnies Bushfire Appeal* at www.vinnies.org.au . Please be assured that all donations from Victoria will be directed to Victorians.