

Reflection on the Gospel — 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A (Matthew 17:1-9)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Last week's gospel invited us into a confronting habitat, namely the wilderness. This week, we follow Jesus and three of his companions to a high mountain, eventually a cloud-covered mountain. Both wilderness and mountain link Matthew's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites of old. Wilderness and mountain also remind us that God's creation is the locus of wonder and mystery. The world we inhabit has an integrity of its own that has not always been acknowledged in our tradition. It is, in a very real sense, God's dwelling place. It is, in addition, the place of human-divine encounter and the place of human encounter with the other-than-human material world. Attention to habitat can lead us to a clearer understanding of our own place in the scheme of things and to ever deeper understandings of our relationship with God

The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he comes to terms with the fate he is likely to meet: if he confronts the forces of oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. Jesus has struggled with that realisation in the wilderness, at the outset of his ministry. On the mountain top, he comes to terms with what that involves. The disciples see Moses and Elijah, the key prophetic figures of Israel, speaking with Jesus, God's new and definitive prophet. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to a mission that elicits hostility. That is not, however, the way of discipleship. Rather, Peter and his companions are called to "listen" to Jesus, the beloved of God, as are all who follow in the way of discipleship.

Matthew's account of the "transfiguration" is followed by a reminder that Jesus is soon to meet a violent death (17:23). Jesus' companions get a glimpse of God's glory shining on his face and penetrating even his clothing, a hint that God's grace is more life-giving than the forces of violence that oppose God's reign. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We need the good sense to listen and to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we experience from the most unexpected quarters. If we are to sustain the struggle for a healthy, safe, and peace-filled world, we have to resist the temptation to hold on to the moments of glory, and come to terms with the personal cost of being faithful to the gospel mission of justice and compassion with all its painful demands.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH — BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR A, SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 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 3357

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:

Paul Jans (Chair), Kathy Curran, Arnoud

Goossens, Tanya Hislop, Brett Holloway

Gerard McCarty & John White.

Masses This Week

10/3 Tuesday	12.00pm	Funeral Mass, St Alipius'
12/3 Thursday	9.30am	St Alipius' Church
	11.00am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
		Anointing Mass
13/3 Friday	9.30am	Emmaus CPS Opening
		School Mass — St Alipius' Church

Weekly Events

Choir Practice: Tuesdays 6.30pm
St Alipius' Church

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

Reconciliation: Fridays 11.00am &
Saturdays 11.30am St Pat's Cathedral

Next Weekend's Masses

St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East	Saturday, 14th March	6.00 pm
	Sunday, 15th March	9.00 am
SS Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong	Sunday, 15th March	10.30 am

Readings: Third Sunday of Lent — Year A

First: Exodus 17:3-7

Second: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Baptisms: Jimmy Edwards, Esther Edwards, Kainyn Curtis, Quintin Curtis, Jazmyn McDonald

Deaths: Nelly Brouwers, Denise Leanonth, Brian Perkins

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

Thankyou

To all the parishioners, the Caring Group, and visitors from the parish of St James' who offered hospitality and joined in celebrations of Mass with the visiting superiors from the Oblates of St Joseph: Fr Jan Pelczarski, Superior General of OSJ; Fr Maximo Sevilla, Councillor General of OSJ; and Fr Jayson Endaya, Provincial Superior Philippines Province. Fr Jorge is very grateful for, and delighted by, the warmth and welcome shown.

Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent

Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm at Ss Peter & Paul's Church.

Friday mornings after 9.30am Mass at St Alipius' Church.

Light From Within Lenten program

You are welcome to join in this program being held on Thursdays during Lent at 7.00pm in the St Alipius' Presbytery. Inquiries: Mary 0466 214 645

Anointing Mass

To celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, we will be having an Anointing Mass on Thursday 19th March at 2.00pm, St Alipius' Church (no 9.30am Mass that day). If anyone needs a ride please contact the parish office. A cuppa will follow in the hall afterwards. If able, a plate to share would be appreciated.

Coronavirus Health Precautions Introduced

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have issued updated sensible precautions to encourage everyone to be mindful of their own health, including any potential to infect others with a contagious illness, before attending a public liturgical celebration. Fr Kevin Maloney VG has summarised the following points for our diocese which are effectively immediately:

- Holy Communion will only be distributed under the first kind, so host only, no wine. Communion will be received in the hand and not on the tongue;
- Sign of Peace: please consider exchanging the Peace of Christ with a smile, nod or bow, especially if anyone has a cough or sneeze, or vulnerable to ill health;
- All ministers of Holy Communion are to use hand sanitisers before distribution and are not to touch anyone in the act of blessing;
- Holy Water fonts are to be emptied or removed. Holy Water will still be available for anyone wishing to take some home. Hand sanitiser gel will be provided at the church entrance when it becomes available.

Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 10:** E. Wilson ©, C. Stewart

Next Week: **Team 11:** K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire

Parish: Envelopes: \$ 645.20 **Presbytery:** \$ 821.00

Loose: \$ 300.00

Direct Debits: \$ unavailable

\$ 945.20

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



Second Sunday of Lent
8th March 2019



Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes & envelopes, or visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Mass of the Oils Participation

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral, Monday 6th April at 6.30pm. Members of the St Alipius' Parish are invited to participate in the following ministries: Usher, Reader, Presentation of Oils, Presentation of Gifts, Musician, and Member of the Choir. Please fill out your interest on the form in the foyer by Sunday 8th March and place in the tray provided. Online forms available [here](#).

Plenary Council

The next parish sessions will be held on Monday March 23 from 7-9pm, and on Tuesday March 24 from 1-3pm in the St Alipius' Hall. Topic for discernment is *Joyful, Hopefilled and Servant Community*. Please visit www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for further reading. Snapshot reports are available in the church foyers.

St Alipius' Kindergarten Open Days

Monday 16th March 2.30pm to 3.30pm, and Wednesday 18th March 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Please access from Hopetoun Street entrance.

Sts Peter & Paul's, Buninyong: Wine, Cheese & Chat

A Wine & Cheese evening will be held on **Friday 27 March** from around 5pm until around 7pm in the church hall. All very welcome. Bring friends and family and enjoy socialising with fellow parishioners. Small charge of \$5 applies to cover costs.

Nazareth House Auxiliary St Patrick's Day Celebrations

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 218 Mill Street Ballarat, 1.30pm. Musical entertainment, afternoon tea, lucky door prize, cake and produce stalls. Entry \$10.00.

Event: *Ballarat Cares with A Hall Full of Help*

Friday 27th March 10am - 3pm, St Patrick's Hall Dawson Street Sth, Ballarat. A wide range of organisations within Ballarat provide assistance and advice for those in need in our community. Enjoy a unique opportunity to discover the available help all under one roof. Free entry and sausage sizzle, coffee van on site.