

## Reflection on the Gospel — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A (John 4:5-42)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963, Vatican II's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group.

A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people.

Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars.

At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

## ST ALIPIUS PARISH — BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR A, SUNDAY 15TH 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

**SAP Liturgy email:** sapliturgy@gmail.com

**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 & John White.

### Masses This Week

19/3 Thurs	11.00am	Mercy Place (Corbett St)
	2.00pm	St Alipius' Church — <i>Solemnity of St Joseph, &amp; Anointing Mass</i>
20/3 Friday	9.30am	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

<b>St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East</b>	Saturday, 21st March	6.00 pm
	Sunday, 22nd March	10.30 am
<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul's Church, Buninyong</b>	Sunday, 22nd March	9.00 am

### Readings: Fourth Sunday of Lent — Year A

**First:** Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13    **Second:** Ephesians 5:8-14    **Gospel:** John 9:1-41

**Baptisms:** Isla Barr

**Death:** Fr Jose Vidal Apin OSJ (in the Philippines)

**Anniversaries:** Sr Kathleen Nolan RSJ

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

Welcome & thanks to Bishop Peter Connors who is celebrating our Masses this weekend.

### Opportunities During Lent

- **Stations of the Cross:** - Wednesday evenings 7pm, Ss Peter & Paul's Church  
- Friday mornings after 9.30am Mass, St Alipius' Church
- **Light From Within** Lenten program: Thursday evenings 7pm, St Alipius' Presbytery
- **Anointing Mass:** Thursday, 19th March — Feast of St Joseph — at 2pm, St Alipius' Church. Cuppa in the hall after Mass, please bring a plate if able. If you need a ride, please contact the parish office.
- **Reconciliation — 2nd Rite:** Friday, 3rd April 7.00pm, St Alipius' Church.

### Altar of Repose

Looking for 2 or 3 people interested in setting up a prayerful display in the St Alipius' Hall for Holy Thursday Night, 9th April. Please contact the parish office if interested by Fri. March 27.

### Fr Jorge's 50th Birthday Celebrations

Fr Jorge is celebrating this special birthday on Sunday, 29th March. Everyone is welcome to share a cuppa with Fr Jorge after 10.30am Mass that morning (Ss Peter & Paul's) or come along to a parish celebration at 3.00pm in the St Alipius' Hall. Please bring a plate if able.

### Sacrament of Confirmation — Parent Formation & Enrolment Sessions

The scheduled sessions at St. Alipius Primary School, Emmaus Catholic Primary School and St. Francis Xavier Primary School on **Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 14th March have been cancelled.** All other dates for preparation sessions remain the same.

### 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](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) for further reading. Snapshot reports are available in the church foyers.

**St Alipius' Kinder Open Days:** Mon. 16/3 2.30pm-3.30pm, & Weds 18/3 4.30pm-5.30pm.

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

Friday 27 March 5pm to 7pm in the church hall. Small charge of \$5. All welcome.

### Counting Teams

This Week: **Team 11:** K. Bevelander ©, M. Liston, G. Maguire  
 Next Week: **Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane

<b>Parish:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1191.20	<b>Presbytery:</b>	\$ 706.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00		
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>unavailable</u>		
		\$ 1491.20		

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



## Third Sunday of Lent 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia.**

**Let's Go Further, Together.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### Coronavirus Health Precautions Introduced

- Holy Communion will only be distributed under the first kind and in the hand only;
- 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/removed. Hand Sanitiser Gel in foyer when available.

### St Alipius' Parish Finance Committee — Thanks & Vacancies Open

At its last meeting, the committee thanked outgoing chair, Mr Brett Holloway, for his capable and committed service over the past two years. Mr Paul Jans has accepted the role of chair and we wish him well as he leads the committee forward. Retiring member, Mr Gerard McCarty was also thanked for his contribution spanning 12 years. Gerard was an inaugural member of this committee set up in 2008.

**Nominations are now sought until Easter** from parishioners for new members to join the committee. Consideration will be given to ensure representation from both St Alipius' and Ss Peter & Paul's communities, along with equality of age and gender. Nominees will ideally have skills that will complement and support financial management of the parish. Appointed Finance Committee members are required to provide/attain a National Police Check and a Working With Children Check (assistance provided through the parish office).

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**Nomination for St Alipius Parish Finance Committee** (return by email or drop into the office)

Name of Person being nominated.....

In what ways do you believe they are suitable? .....

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Your name .....