

Reflection on the Gospel — Easter Sunday Year A

(Matthew 28:1-10)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Easter invites us to celebrate life in its fullest sense. It is anything but easy to celebrate life, however, when tens of thousands in the Earth community are facing death, when hundreds of thousands are ill and countless others are struggling to put food on their tables. Resurrection faith calls us to be fearless in our support of those most deeply affected.

A faith-filled man and two faith-filled women prepare Jesus for burial. These three people are fearless in the face of possible reprisals for their support of a “political criminal”. Joseph of Arimathea cares for Jesus out of his personal wealth, providing a clean linen cloth and his own newly rock-carved tomb. With his own hands, he performs the burial ritual, lays Jesus’ body in the tomb, and rolls the stone into place. The women disciples who witness the closing of the tomb are both named Mary. One is from Magdala, centre of a fish-salting industry in Galilee and the other is the mother of two male disciples. These women have contributed their goods and services to Jesus on the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem.

The women set out at dawn “to see the tomb” This seems strange until we realise that they are functioning as witnesses, this time to the dramatic opening of the tomb and the appearance of God’s interpretive messenger. “Seeing” is a metaphor for insight. In the earthquake phenomenon and the allusion to lightning, there are echoes of other great moments of God’s appearing to Israel, such as the encounter with Moses and the giving of the Law on Mt Sinai.

The two Marys are the first to learn the news of Jesus’ resurrection and the first commissioned to proclaim it. The women “see” the place where he was laid. They obey the angel’s command not to be afraid but to go quickly to inform the scattered disciples that the resurrected Jesus has gone before them to Galilee, the place of mission, where they too will “see” him. Resurrection life energises these faith-filled women disciples/apostles and negates the death-dealing power of the Roman Empire. Ironically, the Roman tomb guards become “as though dead”.

As the women hurry away from the tomb, Jesus comes to meet them on the path or the road. He addresses them with a familiar greeting of joy, *Chairete*. This is the first appearance of the resurrected One and it draws from the women a profoundly reverential response: taking hold of him, they fall down in worship. Jesus reiterates the commission already delivered by the angel: not to be afraid and to let the men know what has happened. The male disciples will later be commissioned on the mountain top (Matthew 28:16-20). All are commissioned, first the women, then the men. Those “on the mountain top” must not succumb to the temptation of remaining there. They must join those on the road or the path in fearlessly bringing life to Earth’s afflicted.

ST ALIPIUS PARISH — BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG
SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S RESURRECTION — YEAR A, 12TH APRIL, 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
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Contact Details

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Parish Priest: Fr. Jorge De Chavez OSJ

Parish Coordinator: Lucy O’Beirne

Finance Officer: Kerrie McTigue

Funeral Ministry: Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

Child Safety Officer: Roxanne Leed

Liturgy Coordinator: David Santamaria

Some Online Mass Options & Resources for Prayer

St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily at 11.30am via St. Patrick’s Cathedral facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9>

St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne: <https://www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday—Friday: 1.00pm Mass streamed live daily
Sunday Mass: 11.00am or available as a recording

Pope Francis’ Daily Mass:

www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.pagelist.html

Masses celebrated with Bishop Shane Mackinlay, former parishioner, please go to:
www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.” Pope Francis

Prayer Resources

- Ballarat Diocese Website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
- St Alipius’ Parish Liturgy Website: www.sapliturgy.net.au

Next Week’s Readings: Second Sunday of Easter — Year A

First: Acts 2:42-47

Second: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Death: Angela Elizabeth Victoria

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

Easter Message from Fr Jorge

My Dear Parishioners,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Christ be with you all! During this difficult time whether we are in family or individual isolation, you are all in my prayers. I certainly miss meeting with you, seeing you and celebrating the Holy Eucharist with you each week; and hope that we can be together as a faith family, celebrating again when it is safe to do so. Let us be united in spirit this Easter. While we keep our physical distance, let us be close in prayer. May this Easter bring us HOPE in our lives and for a better future. Christ is Risen, his passion and death are things of the past, together we will rise with HIM! We might take a different view of what 'locked-down' is for us. Maybe it can be: "We are locked in God's embrace, down on our 'knees' in prayer". We pray especially for those working at the frontlines doing their best to flatten the curve, those who feel isolated, fearful, alone, frustrated and are unwell at this time. I keep you all and your intentions in the daily mass I celebrate privately.

God bless each of you especially this Eastertide!

Happy Easter! — Fr Jorge In De Chavez, OSJ - Parish Priest.

*You will also find prayer resources, holy water and the week's parish bulletin on the table at the presbytery verandah. *Say a prayer for me on April 13th, my 22nd priestly anniversary.

Easter Message from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop Paul has recorded an Easter message for the people of the diocese. The message can be viewed on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Good Friday Collection

The Good Friday collection for the Holy Land has been postponed until Sunday, September 13.

Mass of the Oils 2020 (or Chrism Mass)

Postponed to Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Review (RCIA)

We are inviting nominations for two representatives from both St Alipius' and Ss Peter & Paul's faith communities to be part of a rewarding and fulfilling ministry within the RCIA Team. Please forward nominations to John Clonan (0478770598) and for further information outlining the role and time commitment.

Our Diocesan Community & eNews

The latest edition of ODC and eNews is now available to read online at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under "News and Events". Direct links for email readers: [Our Diocesan Community](#) and [Ballarat Diocese eNews](#).

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries; employed or volunteers. Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Study over three weeks (cycle 3 only). Begins April 19. Registrations open until April 8. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email kim.butler@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0407523424.



Thank you!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please drop them off to the presbytery mail-slot next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 413

Paschal Candle Thanks

Many thanks to Dominique and Rob Jans who have prepared the new Paschal candles for our churches of St Alipius' and Ss Peter and Paul's. Dominique would be well known to many and is continuing the tradition of exquisite hand-crafted wax decoration of these candles which was taught to Dom by her late father, Henk DeJong. When our churches reopen, please take the time to appreciate these beautiful candles placed near the baptismal fonts.

... and Did You Know?

Paschal comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'deliverance' or 'Passover', and in the Christian church it means 'Easter' so it connects the Resurrection to the exodus from Egypt. As such, Easter, or the Passover of the Lord, is where we recognise that Jesus passed from death to life.

The Paschal candle is often decorated with the symbol of the cross or the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha and omega, signifying God as the beginning and the end. Five metal studs containing incense are inserted into the candle (at St Alipius' Church) during the ceremony of the first lighting to represent the five wounds of Jesus: the three nails that pierced His hands and feet, the sword thrust into His side, and the thorns that crowned His head.

The Paschal candle is the first candle to be lit from the 'new' sacred fire burned outside of the church on Easter Saturday night — the Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord. This blessed fire and candle-flame constitute the light of Christ coming into the world, thus representing the risen Christ as a symbol of light (life) dispelling darkness (death). This light is then taken into the church which had been placed in darkness since Holy Thursday night. Distribution of the flame via taper candles amongst the congregation signifies that this light can be shared without being dimmed.

The Paschal candle is lit during the fifty days of the Easter season and then throughout the year on special occasions such as baptisms (incorporating the Holy Spirit at Pentecost) and funerals (to represent the hope of the Resurrection).

St Vincent De Paul Call Centre — 5334 2844 lines open 24/7

Parish Collections Last Week: No figures available this week