

## Reflection on the Gospel - Easter 5A

(John 14:1-14)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

“Take from my heart all painful anxiety” is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is an ever present possibility. When we don't have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time in most of our lives when there are real concerns and potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with the global Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on so many aspects of life.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood (“be troubled”), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart: “Believe in God, believe also in me.” The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: “I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself”. In this context, Jesus makes three claims: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the glorified Jesus as “full of grace and *truth*” and the bringer of “grace and *truth*”(1:14, 17). He is the *life* that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of *life*, even the resurrection and the *life*. His claim to be “the way” was foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: “I am the gate for the sheep.”

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as “Father”. If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the “works” of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress. Praying for those who put their lives at risk to protect others is a powerful means of dealing with troubled hearts.

## ST ALIPIUS' PARISH — BALLARAT EAST & BUNINYONG FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR A, 10TH MAY 2020

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

SS Peter & Paul's Church  
701 Fiskens St, BUNINYONG 3357

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

*St Alipius' Parish acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of this  
land and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*

**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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**SAP Liturgy website:** [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)

**SAP Liturgy email:** [sapliturgy@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Funeral Ministry:** Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

**Child Safety Officer:** Roxanne Leed

**Liturgy Coordinator:** David Santamaria

**Finance Committee Chair:** Paul Jans

### Some Online Mass Options & Resources for Prayer

- ◆ Ballarat Diocese Mass options: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- ◆ St Alipius' Parish Liturgy Website: [www.sapliturgy.net.au](http://www.sapliturgy.net.au)
- ◆ Masses with Bishop Shane Mackinlay: [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au)
- ◆ St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne: <https://www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

#### 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

### Next Week's Readings: Sixth Sunday of Easter — Year A

**First:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

**Second:** 1 Peter 3:15-18

**Gospel:** John 14:15-21

**Recent Death:** Gerard O'Sullivan

**Anniversaries:** Mary Bettes

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

## Keeping in Touch — Fr Jorge

Hello My Dear Parishioners,

How time flies, we are already on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and on the 7<sup>th</sup> week of self isolation. We missed out on a lot of big celebrations that bind us together at this time but none the less, I believed it does not in any way diminished the Faith, Hope and Love we have in Our Lord Jesus Christ who today reveals himself as THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE. His words today are very comforting especially at this time of uncertainties, as we face together this pandemic that heavily impacted our lives; Jesus said "DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, TRUST IN GOD STILL AND TRUST IN ME".

As we stay in our homes and maintain physical distancing we continue to be united in prayers, we are all in this together, doing our part the best we can to flatten the curve. We keep praying for those working at the frontlines, for our leaders in the church and in the government, those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Special greetings to all Mothers, Happy Mother's Day. Like Jesus Mothers are our first teachers who show us the WAY, teach us the TRUTH and through them we have our LIFE. BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MOTHERS for the love and sacrifices, I remember you all in my mass today and impart my special prayer and blessings.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Lucy, she finished her job as parish coordinator May 8, 2020. I really appreciate, she stays for little while and guided me during the transition. Thank You Very Much Lucy.

I am looking forward in the very near future to see you all and come together to celebrate the EUCHARIST. Missing you all!

*Best Regards, Fr. Jorge, OSJ*

### Shared Parish Notice Sheet

As of next weekend, the Ballarat East Parish will receive a shared notice sheet with the Cathedral Parish until the appointment of a new parish coordinator. Requests for notices, anniversaries or prayers for a sick person can still be made by contacting the Cathedral office on **5331 2933** or via email [ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au). The bulletin will continue to be distributed to email recipients and paper copies will be available for collection from the St Alipius' Presbytery verandah. Many thanks to Fr Justin and the St Patrick's Cathedral office staff for their support and assistance.

### Position Available — Ballarat East Parish Coordinator

Applications are currently being sought for the position of Parish Coordinator. This is a part-time position that ensures the effective operation of the parish office by providing office coordination, reception and administrative assistance. A copy of the position description and application form are available on the parish [website](#). Applications close Friday 26th June.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society Bread Run at St. Alipius

Free fresh bread is available to people on Centrelink benefits and to all experiencing job loss, shorter hours, etc. Pick up on each Monday night between 7.50 pm and 8.20 pm in the parish hall adjacent to the St. Alipius Church. Parking is via Hopetoun Street entrance. Bring own bags as no bags are supplied. Please pass on this information to any families experiencing difficulties at this time. Queries: please ring Gavin 5334 7221 or Geoff 0413 840 835.

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

### Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Week of Prayer and Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 24-31, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website [The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](http://The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity). Further resources will be added to this page in the coming days.

### 2020 - It's the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'

Pope Francis invites you to celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week which takes place May 16-24. Go to <https://laudatosiweek.org/> for more information.

### Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study blocks per subject. Study Cycle 4 begins May 24. Registrations open now until May 13. Visit [Lay Pastoral Ministry Program](#) on the diocesan website or contact Kim 0407 523 424.

### Online Liturgical Inculturation Seminar – Australian Catholic University

Rev. Professor Mark R. Francis CSV will be a guest lecturer of ACU for a new masters-level unit called: *THEL620 Special Studies in Theology: Liturgical Inculturation* offered as an online intensive on July 6, 7, 9 & 10 and is open to all interested persons. More information [here](#).

### COVID 19 Fee Relief for School Families

The Catholic Education Office Ballarat have provided information for families experiencing difficulty paying school fees during the COVID-19 crisis. See the video on their website <https://ceob.edu.au/>

### Planned Giving Envelopes and Other Offerings

Please post envelopes through the mail-slot of the presbytery. If you have any queries regarding Planned Giving, please contact:

**Kerrie McTigue**

**Parish Finance Officer**

Phone: (03) 5331 2933 — Email:

[ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballaratoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Thank You to Those who Contributed to Last Week's Collections

Parish:	Envelopes:	\$ 1115.00
	Loose:	\$ nil
	Direct Debits:	\$ 350.00
		\$ 1465.00
Presbytery:		\$ 445.00