

**Reflection on the Gospel-19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
**(Matthew 14:22-33)** - Veronica Lawson RSM

The church knows what it means to be “battered by the waves”. Over its two millennia history, there have been periods of discrimination and persecution against its members. Countless church members have died for their faith, while others have been and are being denied the freedom to practice their religion. There have also been times when the church has fallen far short of its own ideals and has quite seriously betrayed the gospel values it seeks to embody and proclaim. It is presently “battered” by huge even terrifying waves, largely of its own creating. Only God can bring order out of the chaos, and God works through the courageous witness and action of faith-filled disciples.

In today’s gospel, Matthew tells of Jesus astride the waves like the God of Israel in Job 9:8. In Israel’s mythology, the sea represents chaos. To walk on water is to have power and authority to bring order out of the chaos. Matthew presents Jesus as exercising the power of God over the potentially destructive chaos. Jesus makes his claim to divine power explicit in words that echo God’s words from the burning bush: “It is I” (literally “I am”). He tells the frightened disciples to take heart and not to be afraid. Peter, leader of the group, continues to doubt. He asks for a sign and is then prepared to take a risk in order to come to Jesus on the water. He begins to falter when he takes his eyes off Jesus and focuses instead on the threatening wind. Jesus reaches out his hand to rescue Peter. In a lovely gesture, Jesus takes him by the hand and holds him firmly in his grip. Jesus names Peter’s problem as one of limited faith.

Matthew weaves the story of Peter into an earlier story from Mark’s gospel. We can only speculate on the reasons for this. Were Matthew’s communities going through hard times? Were they battered by the waves of conflicting loyalties as they found themselves excluded from Pharisaic Judaism? Was the pressure of separation from the synagogue too great for some, even for those in leadership? This is a telling story for anyone who exercises leadership at any level in the church. It is a reminder to us as disciples to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the source of hope in times of struggle and uncertainty and on the crucial issues that face our planetary home.

Finally, this story invites us to consider the threatening waves created by the undeniable reality of climate change. The growing commitment to renewable energy sources provides, for me, a contemporary image of a saving hand reaching out to the Earth communities that are in danger of being submerged.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST**

Including St Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING**  
**MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Feast of The Assumption</b> 9.30 am in Parish Church 5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>St Alipius Feast Day</b> 12.00 midday in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	10.30 AM

**20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

<b>READINGS</b>	First: Isaiah 56:1.6-7
	Second: Romans 11:13-15.29-32
	Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

**RECENT DEATHS:** Betty Duggan, Frances Morris.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jacob McGarry, Alan Quanchi.


**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor, Mary Martin, Patricia Harman, Mary Goossens

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

This Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders.©, M. Saunders.

Next Week: **Team 11:** E. Kennedy.©, C. Stewart

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**



<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,165.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>1,070.00</u>
		\$ 2,535.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 935.00

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)  
GATHERING OF SPONSORS, CATECHISTS, PARISHIONERS  
AND INQUIRERS**

An invitation is extended to all past sponsors, catechists and interested parishioners to gather with those enquiring about the Catholic faith.

**When:** Wednesday 23rd August at 7 pm

**Where:** St Alipius Presbytery

For further information please contact Fr Peter, Ph. 5332 6611  
or John Clonan, Ph. 0478 770 598

**EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE PROPOSALS**

In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. See flyers on the Notice Board and in the Church foyer.

**CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE - CATHEDRAL BRANCH -  
SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

This will be held on Wednesday September 6th in the Mary Glowery Room in the O'Collins Hall. Speaker, Diane Colbert, will present "*Our children and the media*". Stall and competition. Afternoon Tea provided.

All Welcome. Free entry. Inquiries - Carmel 0401 175 045

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING**

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Evening. The Information Evening will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents.

**INFORMATION EVENING:** Wednesday 6th September at 5 pm  
Please arrive at 4.45 pm for registration

**STUDENTS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**2019 YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING**

All families are welcome to attend the 2019 Year 7 Information evening on Thursday, 26th October at 7.30 pm which will take place in the College Chapel. Families will hear from the Headmaster, Mt John Crowley, the Director of Junior School, Mr John Richards, and have the opportunity to tour the College. Please register your attendance through Trybooking and by clicking on this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/RCPH>

**BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM**

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, and many more. Registration for the September study cycle closes on 28th August—or you can start later in October. There are six study cycles each year, you can start at any one. Study one subject or do more—it's flexible! Details on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (link is on home page), or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or email [amandasmith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amandasmith@ballarat.catholic.org.au). See flyers in the church foyer.

**FR ROBERT MCCULLOCH AT NAZARETH HOUSE**

**Monday August 28th:** 6 pm Mass, followed by  
7 pm Presentation "*Can Christianity Survive in Pakistan*"  
All welcome. Inquiries 0401 175 045

**CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY RESOURCES**

In response to a request from Pope Francis, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has set aside Sunday, 10 September 2017 **Child Protection Sunday** as a Day of Prayer and Penance for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse. See the diocesan website under "Liturgy Resources" [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)