

Reflection on the Gospel-16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 6:30-34)

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

In every life, there is need for a balanced rhythm of work and recreation. With so much pain and suffering in our world, the demands of the mission can overwhelm us and cause us to act as though everything depends on us. While we can never really escape the responsibility of being there for those in need, today's gospel reminds us that there is a time for being out on mission and a time for being with the one who calls and sends us.

The apostles have been busy—preaching, healing and driving out the “demons” as instructed. They now report back to Jesus with an account of their activities and are invited to take time to rest and recuperate. “Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while” is the invitation that Jesus extends to them. The reference to desert evokes the wilderness of Sinai through which the people of Israel travelled for forty years. For the contemporary reader, it evokes the diversity of life in the desert on the one hand, and the desertification of so much of the earth's surface as a result of tree-clearing and mindless destruction of forests on the other.

The “rest” that Jesus proposes is short-lived: the crowds pursue him. His response to these crowds is a physical one: he is “moved with compassion”. The Greek verb suggests a “gut” reaction in Jesus: he is physically affected in the depths of his being by the plight of the people who are “like sheep without a shepherd”, and is ready to do something about it. As the story continues, we find Jesus inviting his disciples to accept responsibility for relieving the hunger of the people in the desert. “You give them something to eat” is his instruction to those who would turn the people away.

Like the Israelites of old, the afflicted Earth community in any age needs good leaders or “shepherds” who will “practice justice and righteousness in the land”, as the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah reminds us. The Hebrew word for justice refers to justice in the law courts. The word for righteousness is about right relationship at every level. Jesus demonstrates for his disciples and for us what justice and righteousness mean.

As the gospel story unfolds, we find that Jesus' disciples are well-meaning though slow to learn. They are a bit like us in that. The more we take time to reflect, however, the more likely we are to respond with the compassionate heart of the good shepherd, and the more likely we are to achieve lasting justice and right relationship in a world of unconscionable disparities and unprecedented displacement.

BULLETIN FOR 16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 20th JULY 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am at Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
SATURDAY:	Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

ST. ALIPIUS	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

READINGS - THE 17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	2 King 4:42-44
Second:	Ephesians 4:1-6
Gospel:	John 6:1-15

ANNIVERSARIES: Nancy Flanagan, Mary Carter, Molly Flanagan, Basil Roach, Patrick Roach, Joseph Roach.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Barb Gleeson, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Doreen Forbes, Mona Shillito, Cath Wheelahan.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

Next Week: .**Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,847.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,037.00</u>
		\$ 3,184.50

PRESBYTERY: \$ 936.00

EVENTS

- Wednesday, 22nd July **Social afternoon** in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. All welcome.

R.C.I.A. - RITE OF INITIATION OF ADULTS

The R.C.I.A. is a process which begins when people who are interested in becoming Catholic come together with members of the R.C.I.A. team to discuss the personal experiences that have drawn them to question and discover more about the Catholic faith. Those who choose to explore and seek full intuition into the Catholic Church continue through the process of *Enquiry* to the *Catechumenate* and then onto full membership into the Catholic Church. Brochures about the R.C.I.A. are available in the foyer. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic faith please contact Fr. Adrian McInerney at the Parish Office on: 5332 6611.

SUGGESTION

A small group of families and people directly affected by sexual abuse in this parish met recently to discuss how we might mark an admission of the abuse and its effect, and seek to move forward. They suggested that we should consult the parish and ask for ideas. You are invited to make your suggestions via the **suggestion box** at the entrance to St. Alipius church, or by email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

KARUNAI - "A CELEBRATION OF KINDNESS"

Sponsored by Ballarat Rural Australians for Refugees— Sunday, 19th July from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Eureka Stockade Hall Stawell St, Ballarat East. Tickets \$15.00.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Parishioners are invited to contribute to our annual Winter Appeal. All donations will be used to enable members of the Society to assist the underprivileged and marginalised people in our community.

SVDP relies on donations, principally via our two annual appeals and proceeds of sales from our Vinnies stores to fund our works.

Our stores are currently in need of:

- Winter clothing
- Books

Donations can be delivered to the stores. Items for the Bridge Mall store can be handed in via the Little Bridge St entrance (ring the bell for access). If you are unable to deliver your items, small parcels can be left at the Piety Stall during July. Members will deliver them to the store.

Special envelopes for cash donations are available at the Piety Stall.

MERCY SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES

Come along and have a lovely social afternoon on Friday, 31st July from 1.30 pm— 4.00 pm at the Mercy Centre, Ballarat East (enter through Gent Street). Entrance cost is \$5.00 which includes afternoon tea and a ticket in the entrance prize. Raffle and a Spinning wheel. Money raised will support Mercy Works. Contact Ursula at gudiamond-keith@live.com or phone 0407 717 626 or 5341 7626, or Helen on 0419 875 349.

PONCHOS FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you to all parishioners for your generosity in donating blankets to be made into ponchos for the homeless. We collected 10 woollen blankets which was great. When the ponchos are made they will be distributed to people in need through the Ballarat Soup Bus Program. Ursula and Liz.

STEWARDSHIP STATEMENTS

The next lot of statements/envelopes for the Stewardship Program are not due to go out until mid September. If you would like your statement for the last financial year please leave your details with the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

CHILDRENS LITURGY PROGRAM

For Term 3 begins this weekend at our Vigil Mass (6.00 pm). See notice board for details.

"THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E."

This movie fundraiser has been cancelled. If you would like to donate to Mates4Mates you may do so at lundystrek2015everydayhero.com/au/genevieve