

## Reflection on the Gospel-2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C (John 2:1-11)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's liturgy invites us to take a detour into the Fourth Gospel and into a marriage scene that the evangelist John places at the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry. Marriage imagery appears from time to time in Israel's prophetic tradition, sometimes in quite confronting ways, especially in Hosea where God is imaged as husband and Israel as God's faithless wife. In the first reading from the post-exilic prophecy of Third Isaiah, Jerusalem is the bride, once alienated from God and then fully reconciled with and embraced by God, its "builder". The link between the Isaian passage and the marriage at Cana is fairly tenuous, although the juxtaposition of the two readings in the context of today's liturgy invites us to consider the intimate relationship that our Earth and its inhabitants enjoy with God, its "builder" or creator. God's delight is in Earth and in the Earth community, not simply in one city and one people of the Earth.

The focus in the gospel story is less on the marriage, however, than on the symbolism of the abundance of wine at the marriage feast. The 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE prophet Amos had looked to a future time when the mountains would drip sweet wine, and the hills flow with it, a time when God would restore the fortunes of God's people. An abundance of good food and the best of wines is the image of future salvation deployed by another 8<sup>th</sup> century prophet, Isaiah (Isaiah 25). Today's gospel suggests that these prophetic dreams come to fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. Those who listen to his word and follow his instructions become agents of an extraordinary transformation.

The mother of Jesus features significantly in the Cana story. She is attentive to the integrity of the feast and informs her son when the wine gives out. This provides the opportunity for Jesus to speak of his "hour": it has not yet come. Jesus addresses his mother as "Woman". He will address her in precisely the same way when the "hour" of his death and handing over of the Spirit finally comes. This "woman" believes in him and invites the servants at the marriage feast to obey his word. While Jesus performs this first "sign" that leads his disciples to faith, the role played by this faith-filled woman casts her in the role of "witness to the light" and proclaimer of the Word.

### BULLETIN for the 2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



#### 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

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#### MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 18th JANUARY 2016

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

#### READINGS - The 3rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

First:	Neh 8:2-6.8-10
Second:	1 Cor 12:12-30
Gospel:	Lk 1:1-4.4:14-21

**RECENT DEATH:** Basil McKay.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Una Murphy, Bridget Curran, Michael Roach, Jesus Dondoy, Michael Murphy, Margie Flanagan, Jane Shine, Patrick Blood, Bidget Galvin.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes, Terry McGarry.

### COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

Next Week: .**Team 8:** B. Ridsdale ©, M. Ridsdale, B. McKeegan.



### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,266.10
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,095.00</u>
		\$ 2,661.10
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 720.00

### EVENTS

- Wednesdays **Rosary** in the Chapel of Visitation at St. John of God Hospital at 12.45 pm. All welcome.
- Wednesday afternoons **Legion of Mary** meets at Nazareth House, Mill St. Ballarat, at 1.30 pm. Enquiries: 5332 8624 or 5332 7227.
- **Legion of Mary Prayers:** Prayers of Petition to Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral from 11.15 am - 11.45 am on 1st & 3rd Thursdays.

### **MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT - Supporting refugee students in local schools**

Volunteer mentors needed.

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is approximately three hours per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred, but you will receive ongoing training and support. Initial training for new volunteers will be held in February 2016. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email:

[mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) for information and application form. Applications close on February 5th, 2016.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE - DATES FOR 2016**

- Rite of Election: Saturday, 13th February at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
- Mass of the Oils: Monday, 21st March at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

### **FREE E-BOOK FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR E-READER**

**(Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year C-2)**

This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader (or tablet), offers the Gospel for everyday of this Liturgical Year C-2 (Sundays Year C, weekdays Year 2), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. This Liturgical Year C-2 has now begun and will continue till November of 2016. The e-book contains the Gospel passages not only for this present but for any C-2 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their reflections. [www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/)

### **MUSIC AT THE BREWERY**

Sunday, 31st January from 2.30 pm at 107 Yuille Street, Buninyong (Near Gardens).

**In aid of local asylum seekers and ASRC.**

Live music. Entrance: \$15.00. Children: free. Afternoon tea provided.

For further information: Merle Hathaway: 0419 324 042, email:

[merle.hathaway@bigpond.com](mailto:merle.hathaway@bigpond.com) or Margaret O'Donnell: 0402 498 644.

### **SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS**

In 2015 the average attendances at Sunday Mass in Buninyong:

9.00 am Mass: 103

10.30 am Mass: 170

Christmas Mass: 360

The old church used to seat approximately 100 - 110 people.

### **DIOCESAN E-NEWS**

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with an interest in life of the Diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website:

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or you are welcome to submit items for publication to: [enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au). News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the Diocese and include photos where possible.

### **GORDON PARISH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

On Sunday, 28th February, 2016 the Gordon Parish Pastoral Council is running a Community Festival at the Wallace Recreation Reserve. Many fun family activities planned with special guest appearances, along with a variety of stalls. Please keep this date free.