

Reflection on the Gospel-24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 8:27-35)

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Today's gospel reading leads us into a section of Mark's gospel that explores challenges confronting all disciples on their journey of faith. The first challenge is to clarify the nature of our commitment as disciples of Jesus. If we fail to understand who Jesus is, then we have little chance of understanding the nature of our own call to follow him. Two questions ("Who do *people* say that I am?" and "Who do *you* say that I am?") are addressed to our forbears in faith communities of the latter part of the first century and to Christians across the millennia. We are invited to hear these questions anew. Do we simply share what "the people" say about Jesus? Are we like Peter who has the right language but only partial insight? Or do we have the wisdom to seek a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus?

In response to Jesus' second question ("Who do you say that I am?"), Peter gets the words right: Jesus is the messiah, the Christ, God's anointed messenger. It becomes clear, however, that Peter has a very different notion from Jesus of what it means to be the messiah or the Christ. This is understandable since there were diverse messianic expectations within first-century Judaism. Many expected a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the Roman occupiers and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Jesus, as God's messiah, refuses the way of violent action. His way is to be true to his mission of bringing God's empire, even if it brings the most intense personal suffering. Peter refuses to accept a suffering Messiah. He is severely reprimanded for his refusal and instructed to get out of the way, to get back to where a disciple should be, namely behind Jesus, following him, and not in front obstructing the path.

The bitter experience in recent years of global conflicts should make us wary of accepting militaristic messiahs. In our times, to know and follow Jesus as the Christos or Messiah is to seek and support more moderate and lasting responses to perceived injustice. It is to listen to the wisdom of those with insight and experience, to calculate with the utmost care the consequences of violent reactions to the problems in our world, in contemporary society, and in our homes. That may well involve hard work, personal misunderstanding, physical and emotional trauma or, in other words, it may mean "losing one's life" for the sake of the gospel. It certainly calls for profound trust in the saving power of God. Over the next few weeks, the Sunday gospels will call us into the ways of respect, of commitment, and of peaceful negotiation, to ever deeper insight into the ways of the anointed agent of God's empire.

BULLETIN FOR 24th 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, 14th SEPTEMBER 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in 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	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

READINGS - THE 25th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Wisdom 2:12.17-20
Second:	James 3:16-4:3
Gospel:	Mark 9:30-37

RECENT DEATHS: Stjepan Jelencic, Olive Bourke.

ANNIVERSARIES: Russell Cowan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Mona Shillito, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson.

Next Week: .**Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 688.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,825.00</u>
		\$ 2,813.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 642.00

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.

Online diocesan training course about safeguarding children & vulnerable adults

If you have a particular role in the parish, you may be contacted about providing your email address for the purpose of completing an online training course to be distributed by the Diocesan Professional Standards office. The training relates to two diocesan documents: "Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults" and "Code of Conduct for Caring for Children" The training aims to ensure that all those who work with children and persons in positions of responsibility in our parishes have read and understand the documents.

ST. MARTIN'S IN THE PINES

1970 - 1975 year group are holding their 40 Year REUNION on Saturday, 24th October. For bookings and further details please contact Robyn Barnett; ph: 5337 2352 or email: connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

STORIES JESUS TOLD: THE PARABLES

Sponsored by Anima Education and Catholic Women's League

This intensive course over one weekend will study the Parables of Jesus in 6 sessions looking at how they were heard by Jesus' first listeners, read in the Christian tradition how we might interpret them today.

Nazareth House, Friday evening, 18th to Sunday 24th September.

Enquiries: Maureen van der Linden - 0431 273 953.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society wish to thank all those who supported our recent Winter Appeal. Your generous donations greatly assist our work.

The society currently operated a bread run to 39 homes across the parish each Monday evening. To ensure that we are able to continue this service we require additional volunteers.

If you are interested in joining our bread run team please contact Geoff Clarkson on 5340 0782.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children and their friends invite you to join them, together with other asylum seeker supporters, to a Spring Stroll down Sturt St. Friday, 25th September at 10.30 am. Meet outside the Ballarat Base Hospital main entrance. Hear the story of the Tampa incident. The peaceful walk will finish at the flagpole outside the Town Hall about 11.30 am. For more information phone Cath: 0437 185 238.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit.

There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Melbourne weekend dates: 23-25 Oct (last one for 2015), 8-10 April, 17-19 June, 19-21 Aug, 11-13 Nov in 2016.

Starts 7.00 pm on Friday. Ends 5.00 pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel 9733 0997 OR email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au OR website: www.wwme.org.au