

**Reflection on the Gospel-15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 6:7-13)**

-Veronica Lawson, RSM

To be a disciple of Jesus is to experience a call. It is also to be sent on a mission in partnership with others, a mission invariably expressed in terms of preaching, teaching, healing, and/or driving out of demons or unclean spirits. In other words, it is to be authorised to do what Jesus did and to proclaim what he proclaimed. When we hear of Jesus casting out demons and telling his disciples to do likewise, we tend to think that whatever they did is something that belongs to another time and has little to do with our contemporary society.

In the cosmology of the time, there was a realm between the divine and the human that was inhabited by good and evil spirits (angels and demons). The divide between these realms was conceptualised as porous so that humans could be protected by the angels or “possessed” by the demons. While the cosmology of the twenty-first century has no “place” for such beings, the contemporary imagination allows space for a metaphorical engagement with the angelic and demonic. When we speak of “demons” now, we are talking about something recognisable in human experience, even if somewhat removed from the “demons” that beset the poor in the Roman imperial provinces of the first century.

Today’s parents spend much of their time casting out the “demons” that beset their children, as do our friends when they sit and listen to the pain in our hearts and help us to let go of the “demons” that so often inhabit our psyches. Many health professionals are paid to heal the hurts as well as the cuts and burns. They drive out the demons of fear and hate and prejudice and of paralysing mental illness. Educators also, aware that learning occurs only when students are relatively free from fear and anxiety, know what it means to drive out the demons.

It is significant that Jesus instructs the disciples to travel light. They need the basics to live and to do their job, but if their mission is to be effective, they must be free from the anxiety that comes from excess. Psychologist and social critic John F. Schumacher suggests that societies with the most material goods tend to be the most anxious. “Mutual respect, community-mindedness, an eagerness to share, reverence for nature, thankfulness and love of life”, it seems, are the major ingredients for a stress- or “demon”-free personal and community life. There would be no need to shake the dust from our feet for want of hospitality if that were the way we all chose to live. What’s more, there would be enough for all on our planet, the human and other-and-human, to live in dignity and peace.

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul’s, Buninyong
(The Parish of St Alipius, the communities of Ballarat East and Buninyong are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.)

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.30 am—1.30 pm
Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East 3350
Telephone: 5332 6611
Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Website: <http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 16th JULY 2018**

MONDAY: No Mass
TUESDAY: 5.00 pm at Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY: 11.00 am at Mercy Centre
THURSDAY: 9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY: 9.30 am in Parish Church

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES

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

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Second: Ephesians 2:13-18
Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

RECENT DEATH: Martin Lane, Lorraine Hitchins

ANNIVERSARIES: Jason Luke Duck OMI, Nancy Flanagan, Mary Carter, Molly Flanagan, Basil Roach, Patrick Roach, Joseph Roach, Michael Edgar

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Patricia Harman, Leonie Sinnot, John Darroch.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 11: E. Kennedy©, C. Stewart.
Next Week: Team 12: K. Bevelander©, M. Liston, G. Maguire

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	1,213.20
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	<u>960.00</u>
		\$	2,323.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$	741.00



RETURN OF UNUSED PIXES

Thankyou to those Ministers of the Eucharist who have returned unused pixes. Any still to be returned may be left in the sacristy.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Copies of this publication are available at the back of the church again this week.

THE SWAG

A few copies of *The Swag*, the quarterly magazine of the National Council of Priests of Australia, are available for interested parishioners to take home and read. When finished please return to the back of church for others to share.

DISMISSAL CATECHISTS FOR RCIA

As the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program prepares to move into the Catechumenate stage, the team are inviting interested parishioners to become Dismissal Catechists. Dismissal Catechists accompany catechumen's to reflect on the gospel after the homily at mass on a weekend. If you would like to be involved in this valuable ministry please contact Fr. Peter or John Clonan [0478770598](tel:0478770598)

BAPTISM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish is seeking volunteers to support families for the Sacrament of Baptism. Interested parishioners are invited to attend an information session over a cuppa in the parish administration (old presbytery) on Wednesday, 18th July at 7.00 pm. Main idea is to offer friendly and welcoming support to families at the Mass of Baptism.

RALLIES FOR REFUGEES

This July marks 5 years since the *PNG Solution* was announced by Kevin Rudd PM saying "From now any asylum seeker who arrives in Australia by boat will have no chance of being settled in Australia as refugees". Consequently, many asylum seekers have been kept on Manus Island Nauru for five years. A local protest rally will be held in Ballarat on Monday 16th July, meeting at 11.00am outside Catherine King's office; Melbourne protest being held on Saturday 21st July at 2pm outside the State Library of Victoria. More information on flyers in church porch.

EUROPE PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Stephen from Highett Parish would like to invite you for a 17-day pilgrimage that he is leading departing on 7th October 2018. This pilgrimage features Avila, Fatima, Santiago, Medjugorje, Lourdes, Milan, Padua, Assisi and Rome for an all-inclusive price of \$7200. This fare includes Return Airfares + Local Transfers + Stay in 4 Star Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8513 0680 & 1300721561 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au. *Last 2 seats available for 15th August Group departure.* More information on flyer in the foyer.

JOY SPREADING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Sam Clear is the guest speaker at the next Joy Spreading event for young adults (18-30yo) on Friday 27 July from 6.30pm – 9.00pm at the Lake View Hotel, Ballarat. An opportunity for young Catholic adults to share ideas and views in a friendly environment. Free event. This is a Year of Youth initiative - *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. More info www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or 53377125.

LEGION OF MARY NOVENA— BALLARAT

The Legion of Mary invites you to join in a 9-day novena of an hour's adoration in preparation and discernment for the Plenary Council. The novena will commence on Monday 6th August (Feast of The Transfiguration of Our Lord) and conclude on Tuesday 14th August (eve, Feast of The Assumption of Mary). Venue: St Patrick's Cathedral. Copies of the program are available in the church foyer.

Enquiries: Sarah 0408 122 173 or Doris 5339 4418.

MERCY CONNECT — VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support students from a refugee/asylum seeker background in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The project aims to provide mentoring for young people to optimize their literacy development, academic and social learning. Interested persons should contact Donna Stewart on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com.