

## Reflection on the Gospel-Third Sunday of Lent Year A

(John 4:5-42) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing the candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963, Vatican II's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group. A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. Her response, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?", provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah or Christ and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people. Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she has had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner although there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus among scholars. At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She risks sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world.

## BULLETIN FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A



### ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

Telephone: 5332 6611

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### MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 20th MARCH 2017

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	No Mass

**Note:** Fr Peter will be attending the Mercy Institute 2017 Governance Forum in Sydney, Wednesday-Friday, in his capacity as Co-governor of St Francis Xavier Primary School.

### NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

### 4th SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

<b>READINGS -</b>	First:	1 Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13
	Second:	Ephesians 5:8-14
	Gospel:	John 9:1-41

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Max McGarry, Geoffrey Conway, Kathleen Nolan RSJ

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson.

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

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

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



**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,201.20
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>490.00</u>
		\$ 1,991.20

<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 692.00
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**LENTEN REFLECTION**

Each Thursday in the **Church Meeting Room** from 10.00—11.00 am.

The opportunity is offered to join others and share in reflection on the Sunday Gospels throughout Lent.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

At **Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong**, each Wednesday evening during Lent at 7.00 pm. All welcome.

**CHOIR FOR MASS OF THE OILS—2017**

Please contact Julie Boyd at the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest at: [julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**AINARO TIMOR-LESTE FUNDRAISING BUSH DANCE**

Saturday, 25th March at Donegan's Farm, Gordon from 6.30—11.00 pm.

Enquiries to: Desley 0429 075 173 or Barry 0409 458 053. See Notice Board.

**REFUGEE DADS AND KIDS WEEKEND**

24th—26th March 2017 at the YMCA Camp, Phillip Island. See Notice Board.

**COMMUNION TO THE HOMES**

Many people are house-bound and therefore have little contact with the church. Anyone who is interested in taking Communion to them in their homes is asked to contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Will the person using Env No 92 please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611

**FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

**Venue:** Mercy Gathering room, Gent Street, Ballarat East.

**Dates:** 27th April; 18th May; 22nd June; 20th July.

Sr Veronica Lawson and Fr Barry Ryan announce five two- hour sessions on the meaning of faith commitment in the contemporary world.

Simply contact Sr Veronica by email ([veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)) or by phone (0408 392 297) with any enquiries.

**ANOINTING MASS**

The Anointing Mass will be held on Thursday, 30th March in St Alipius Church at 2.00 pm, followed by afternoon tea in the Parish Hall. A plate would be appreciated.

Anyone requiring transport is asked to contact any member of the Caring Group.

**MASS OF THE OILS, MONDAY, 10th APRIL**

Will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30 pm. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2017—the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. Ministries required for the Mass of the Oils include Ushers, Readers, Oil Bearers, Presentation of the Gifts, Collection of the Oils, Musicians and Singers. For further information contact the Pastoral Ministry Office on 5337 7159 or [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**TOURS OF LORETO CHAPEL AND GARDENS**

The VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) girls formally invite you to Loreto College to take part in tours of the chapel and gardens, followed by morning tea. The tours will last approx one hour and will conclude with morning tea at approx 11.30 am.

For further information and details (for catering purposes) please contact Mr Roger Morris (VCAL teacher) on 0417 370 918 or 5329 6144.

**ASSISTANCE REQUESTED**

In sorting through files and records at the Parish Office. If you are able to help out for an hour or two on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday please contact Jim on 5332 6611.

**FOUND**

A "Sempre" wrist watch, and a Mercy Associate badge. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.