

**Reflection on the Gospel-17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
(John 6:1-15)**

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

The gospel readings for the next five weeks are taken from John 6, a section of the gospel that focuses on food and related themes: on hungry people; on the need for food/bread; on food/bread as metaphors for life. Bread has been the staple food for millennia in bible lands. To be without bread is to lack the very basics of existence, and that is how it is for so many in our world. Even the impoverished in the so-called “first world” know what it is like to be without the means of subsistence in a world of plenty. The present cycle of readings confronts us with questions about our own lifestyle, our exploitation of earth’s precious resources, and our capacity to make a positive change in the lives of those whose access to the fruits of our earth is much more limited than ours.

In John’s account of the feeding of the 5000, the crowds keep following Jesus because they see the “signs” he works among the sick. The Johannine Jesus consistently tries to lead the people beyond a form of discipleship that is simply based on seeing the signs that he works. The inadequacy of the crowd’s response on this occasion becomes clear towards the end of the reading.

Both place and time function powerfully in the story. The “mountain” place evokes the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai. For the crowds, Jesus is the prophet like Moses who points to a way of satisfying hunger in the wilderness of life. The time is Passover, drawing into the narrative the passing over of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the desert and ultimately of the land where they could worship their God. This story is about the liberation that God brings through the agency of Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates that the answer to the suffering of the people, their liberation, is to be found in their care for each other. If they simply take the time to sit down together, discover the riches in their midst, give thanks, and distribute what they have, they may find they have more than they need. They must gather up the fragments, the “more-than-enough”, so that nothing will be lost and others might benefit from their sharing.

Although the people partially understand Jesus’ identity and teaching, their ultimate response is misdirected, even violent: they want to take him by force and make him king. He leaves them and returns to the mountain alone. We so often seek spectacular solutions to our problems. It may be that we too need to sit down together, on the grass or wherever, and discover the wealth we have at our disposal to satisfy the hunger in our world. That is what it means to be a Eucharistic people.

**17TH 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, 30th JULY 2018**

**MONDAY:** No Mass  
**TUESDAY:** 11.00 am 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**

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

**18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**

**READINGS** First: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15  
Second: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24  
Gospel: John 6:24-35

**RECENT DEATHS:** Claire Jensen.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Dunn.

**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., Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach.

### COUNTING TEAMS:

**This Week: Team 1:** L. Noonan©, G Clarkson, L. Mullane.  
**Next Week: Team 2:** B. Perkins©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$	1,129.20
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	<u>1,206.00</u>
		\$	2,485.20
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$	771.00



### CARING GROUP MEETING

The next Caring Group Meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd August at 10.00 am in St Alipius Hall. All welcome.

### ROSES

The roses along the front fence have always been a beautiful feature of our parish grounds. Over the last few weeks, some of the old rose trees have been dug out and replaced with 40 new ones and the remaining trees pruned and fed. Thanks and appreciation to the *Sisters of Mercy* for their kind assistance in lending us Frank Hogan to do the work and for donation of a number of rose trees. If any parishioner would also like to contribute toward the cost of the roses via envelope on the collection plate, it would be greatly appreciated.

### 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 on 0478770598.

### ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

If you have celebrated your First Eucharist and would like to become more involved in the parish then altar server training is for you! Thursdays 4 – 5 pm in the St Alipius Church. Part One: 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Part Two: 9<sup>th</sup> August. (Part Two training in Ss Peter and Paul, Buninyong session to be negotiated). Please contact Rachel for any queries and to confirm your attendance. Phone 0418312306, email [rallan@saballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rallan@saballarat.catholic.edu.au).

### LIFEBOAT GEELONG FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING DINNER

The Lifeboat Geelong Foundation aims to bring help and hope to adult survivors of Church-related sexual abuse. They are hosting a Captains Night fundraising dinner on Thursday, 14 August in Geelong. Guest speaker is Brian Cook from the Geelong Football Club. See flyer on Notice Board.

### FR GERRY PRUNTY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

St Thomas' Terang and St Colman's Mortlake Parishes will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr Gerry Prunty's Ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday, August 12, with Mass commencing at 10.30am in Terang. A light luncheon will follow in the Sisters of Mercy Room at St Thomas' Primary School. All are welcome to attend. For catering purposes, please *RSVP* to the Parish Office, phone 5592 1195.

### PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

#### Plenary Council Gathering

A reminder that a gathering regarding the 2020 Plenary Council is being held at St Patrick's Cathedral Mackillop & Glowrey Rooms, Lyons Street, Ballarat **this** Sunday, July 29 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm with speakers from the Melbourne based "Catholics for Renewal". The Plenary Council has been called by the Catholic Bishops of Australia to allow for lay input to a future Church. Come – listen - and have your say.

#### eConference: Synodality in Practice: Listening to the Spirit and Leading Change

The 14th National eConference will focus on engaging communities around Australia in a landmark discussion around the future vision and direction for the Catholic Church in this country. This eConference can be viewed at the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Mackillop & Glowrey Rooms on Wednesday, August 8, from 10.00am - 3.00pm. All are welcome to attend. BYO lunch. For more information on the eConference go to <https://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au/news-events/111/event/217/synodality-in-practice--listening-to-the-spirit-and-leading-change>

#### St Alipius Parish

Diocesan wide regional gatherings to prepare leaders for dialogue sessions in parishes will be held in mid-October and will be facilitated by Lana Turvey Collins, Plenary Council Facilitator for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Plenary Council questions for contemplation: **1.** What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time? **2.** What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020? **3.** Do you have a story of your experience of faith or the Church you would like to share?

#### Theologians to Teach Course on Plenary Council 2020

Rev Dr Ormond Rush will join other leading academics and experts to present a series of lectures on the Plenary Council as part of ACU's short courses in theology series. The "Listening to the Spirit: Towards the 2020 Plenary Council" Melbourne course will begin on August 1. The Plenary Council short course has been designed to help the public learn what a plenary council is and to engage with the process in a more theologically informed way. For more information regarding this course go to [http://www.acu.edu.au/about\\_acu/faculties\\_institutes\\_and\\_centres/theology\\_and\\_philosophy/theology/short\\_courses/melbourne](http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/faculties_institutes_and_centres/theology_and_philosophy/theology/short_courses/melbourne)