

**Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 6C  
(John 14:23-29)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

“Take from my heart all painful anxiety.” This is the prayer of the first Sister of Mercy, Catherine McAuley. It echoes the words of the Johannine Jesus, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” It is all a matter of love. Disciples of Jesus know that they need not be anxious or afraid “for perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). Today’s gospel makes it clear that “love” finds expression in the keeping of God’s word.

In the prologue to the gospel, John has presented Jesus as the Word, the *Logos* who has been with God from the beginning. Jesus is the word of God in human form, the embodiment of God’s communication with the cosmos. Jesus keeps God’s word. Disciples are to demonstrate their love for Jesus by keeping the word that he both embodies and proclaims. In other words, they are to live as Jesus has lived and be faithful to what he has taught in God’s name. They will thus become a dwelling place for the divine. The implications of this teaching are overwhelming. If we truly believed and “kept” the words of the Johannine Jesus, we might be more inclined to treat each other and “our common home” with the utmost reverence and respect.

Jesus refers once more to his imminent departure. When he is no longer physically present, God’s Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be with them. The Greek word translated as “advocate” carries a range of meanings. It literally means “one called alongside to help” whenever necessary. In other words, the disciples need not be troubled or afraid because they are never alone. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is always with them to defend them, to intercede for them, to comfort them, as well as to keep them focussed on all that Jesus has said to them. Earlier in this chapter of John’s gospel, the Advocate is called the Spirit of Truth who remains with them and is actually in them. Only through the power of the Spirit will the disciples be empowered to “keep the word” of Jesus.

Jesus gifts his friends with peace, a peace “that the world cannot give.” In John’s gospel, the “world” is first and foremost the tenting place of God’s Word: it is God’s creation. Occasionally, as here, it refers to whatever is opposed to Jesus as God’s Word. The gift of peace that Jesus brings is a peace that casts out fear. It carries all the weight of the Hebrew *shalom*: it brings total well-being and peace of mind. True peace comes from being centred in God and gathering in all of God’s creation. As Jesus leaves them, the proper stance for the disciples is joy in the knowledge that, although he is going away, he is also “coming to them” since the “Father” will send the Spirit to be with them. The gospel reading thus leaves us to find peace in the unfathomable mystery of God.

**6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR C**

*Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity  
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

**ST ALIPIUS PARISH — BALLARAT EAST**

**St Alipius’ Parish Church**

84 Victoria Street, BALLARAT EAST 3350

**Ss Peter & Paul’s Church**

701 Fisken St, BUNINYONG 3357

**Telephone:** 5332 6611

**Email:** ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Office Hours:** 9.30am—1.30am Tue, Thu & Fri

**Parish Website:** www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

**CLERGY & STAFF**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter Sherman

**Administrator:** Fr Kevin Maloney VG

**Parish Coordinator:** Lucy O’Beirne

**Child Safety Officer:** Roxanne Leed

**Parish Bereavement Coordinators:**

Carmel Flynn & Kathy Curran

**WEEKDAY MASSES COMMENCING MONDAY, 27th MAY 2019**

**MONDAY:** No Mass

**TUESDAY:** No Mass

**WEDNESDAY:** 9.30 am Mercy Convent (Victoria St)

**THURSDAY:** 9.30 am St Alipius’ Church

**FRIDAY:** 9.30 am St Alipius’ Church

**NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES**

**ST. ALIPIUS** SAT 1st June 6.00 PM

SUN 2nd June 9.00 AM

**BUNINYONG** SUN 2nd June 10.30 AM

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD — YEAR C**

**READINGS**  
**First:** Acts 1:1-11  
**Second:** Eph 1:17-23  
**Gospel:** Luke 24:46-53

**BAPTISMS:**

**RECENT DEATHS:**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** George Pearse, Nancy Colasante.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Aurora Ferrer, Leonie Sinnot, John Darroch, Eleanor Keating, Terry Foran, Cathy Jones, Alison Rice, Pauline Stapleton, Fred Marouff.

### COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien  
Next Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

**PARISH:** Envelopes: \$ 1156.40  
Loose: \$ 300.00  
Credit Cards (mthly)\$ 2562.00  
Direct Debits: \$ 450.00  
\$ 4468.40

**PRESBYTERY** \$ 865.00



### COMMUNITY IDEAS SOUGHT FOR USE OF NEW HALL

At the morning tea after the **10:30 Mass on 2nd June at Buninyong**, community members of Ss Peter & Paul's are invited to discuss what sort of community/parish activities of a social nature could be held in the hall that parishioners would like to see on a regular basis.

### GOSPEL MEDITATION BALLARAT GROUP GATHERING

Gospel Meditation Ballarat Group will gather at the Ss Peter and Paul's Buninyong prayer room on **Monday 27th May 2-3pm**. Reading will be Luke 24:46-53. All welcome. For more information contact Pauline McKenzie 0498704381.

### ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER

A Refugee Week Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday June 19th** at Nazareth House Hall, Mill Street, Ballarat. Entry \$20. Speakers and Entertainment. Stall and Competition. Inquiries 0401175045  
[annekav1234@gmail.com](mailto:annekav1234@gmail.com) Facebook: House of Welcome-Ballarat.

### HEART WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

This conference is being held on **15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at the Waverley RSL**. A time to come together as women to be refreshed and renewed in our busy lives. Spoil yourself. Dream again. Feel loved, honoured and cared for. Invite your daughters, mothers, sisters and friends! Men, what women in your life can you spoil by sending them to *Heart 2019*? Phone: 1300 734 880.

Register: [www.Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com](http://www.Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com) Email: [heart@TheCatholicGuy.com](mailto:heart@TheCatholicGuy.com)

### WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

In Australia, World Communications Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 26, 2019. Pope Francis has released his message for World Communications Day 2019. As is the custom, the message was released on January 24, the feast day of St Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists. You can access the full message on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### CELEBRATIONS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

Celebrations of these sacraments will continue this weekend for the children from St. Alipius Primary School. We congratulate them and offer our prayers, support and welcome to all the children and their families. Upcoming celebrations are:

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	HOST SCHOOL
Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> June	6.00 pm	St Alipius	Emmaus Catholic PS
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.00 am	St Alipius	Emmaus Catholic PS
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	10.30 am	Ss Peter & Paul's	Emmaus Catholic PS

### NEW LITURGY ROSTERS NOW AVAILABLE

Paper copies for those who need them are now available near the piety stall. Any queries or updates can be made through the [sapliturgy.net.au](http://sapliturgy.net.au) website by going to 'Contact' and following the prompts. For people without access to a computer or who would like some assistance please contact Lucy in the parish office.

### LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

You are invited to join 'The Life in the Spirit Prayer Group' for a Catholic Bible seminar beginning on Tuesday June 25th. This will be held over a period of 5 weeks on Tuesday nights from 7pm till 9pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral. To indicate your interest phone Maree on 0429 965999.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

*Invest in your most precious asset..... Your Marriage!*

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. 2019 Melbourne weekend dates: 23-25 August and 15-17 November.* The weekend begins at 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

**Information/Bookings:** PH: Mercy and James 0409183676

Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

Website: [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

### 2019 AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

The next Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be in Perth from December 8-10, 2019! The Ballarat Diocese is partnering with the Melbourne Office for Youth to offer all-inclusive packages to the festival which will cover transport, accommodation, registration to the festival and meals. The event is for those in Year 9 up to 30 years old and is a great way to partake in celebrating the vitality of the Catholic Church in Australia. Interested parishioners can find more information on the Youth & Young Adult Ministry page of the diocesan website or contact Patrick, ph. 5337 7160.

### "LISTEN WITH THE SOUL" RETREAT

This six day retreat will be led by Fr Kevin Dance and Sr Jill Dance from September 16 - 23, 2019 at St Clement's Retreat Centre, Galong, NSW - A Redemptorist Ministry. For bookings and/or more information email [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au).