

**Reflection on the Gospels-20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(John 6:51-58)**

-Veronica M. Lawson RSM

In this week's gospel passage, we continue our reflection on John 6. John's gospel was written towards the end of the first century. The Bread of Life discourse probably reflects the interpretation of the gospel writer rather than the actual words of Jesus. This is important for making sense of statements in the discourse that would seem to be out of place from the lips of Jesus during his lifetime. The hearers of these words have lived and worshipped as followers of Jesus for some decades. They have gathered each week for the breaking of the bread and reflected deeply on the mystery of the Word made flesh, the mystery of life in Christ.

If there were eucharistic overtones subtly present in last week's gospel passage (John 6:41-51), they become quite overt as the Johannine Jesus responds to yet another objection from his opponents in this week's gospel. Like the Israelites of old in the desert wanderings, these people are more than ready to grumble: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (6:52). Jesus does not really respond to the question "How....?" Rather, he goes on to tell those who want to hear that "life" for them depends on their eating his flesh and drinking his blood. The Johannine Jesus uses the present as well as the future tense. The life they experience in eating his flesh and drinking his blood is a present reality for them as well as a promise of on-going life. Life for the Israelites was in the blood: blood poured out meant life poured out. Clearly "life" is being used in John 6 for the quality of life the believers have come to experience through their incorporation into the community of the baptised, the sort of life that is not destroyed by death.

Life in the community unites the believers intimately with Jesus as well as with the God of Israel, whom the Johannine Jesus generally calls "Father". The first reading for today reminds us that other metaphors such as Wisdom were available to those of Jewish heritage for imaging the divine. Wisdom is a female way of imaging the divine. In John's discourse, Jesus becomes Wisdom extending an invitation to the banquet of life. We keep accepting that invitation. It is well to remember that one never enjoys a banquet alone. It is always shared with others who accept the same invitation. In the strength of the sustenance we receive in this banquet, we are also invited to bring a quality of life to all beings that struggle to exist, the human and the other-than-human. The potential for this is as boundless as the generosity of our God "enfleshed" in Jesus.

20TH 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, 20th AUGUST 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

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

READINGS First: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18
Second: Ephesians 5:21-32
Gospel: John 6:60-69

RECENT DEATHS: Ivan Turkovic.

ANNIVERSARIES: Lawrie McCartin, Jane Perkins, Norman Perkins, Grace Clark, George Clark.

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 Sinnott, John Darroch, Maggie Brown, Margaret Meerbach.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 4: C. Tarquino©, M. Tarquino.
Next Week: Team 5: J. Moran©, B. Forbes.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	1,059.70
	Loose:	\$	150.00
	Direct Debits:	\$	<u>745.00</u>
		\$	1,954.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$	758.00



FEAST OF ST ALIPIUS

The feast of St Alipius is celebrated on 15th August. The parish extends our sense of joy and love to the students, staff and families of St Alipius Primary School as they celebrated this special day on Friday with a joy-filled mass, shared lunch and fun activities.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Social afternoon will be held on Wednesday 22nd August at 2.00pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent St. All welcome.

THANK YOU TO THE CARING GROUP

Many thanks to the generous members of the Caring Group who have made a donation towards the purchase of roses that have been planted in the grounds of St Alipius. Your contribution is much appreciated by the parish.

WANTED: PRE-LOVED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Donations of pre-loved children's books are being sought for children to use during weekend church masses. We are particularly looking for children's prayer books, Picture Bibles, Bible stories, or other books that have themes of respect, compassion, justice, or Christianity. There will be a donations box in the St Alipius school office, and another box in the St Alipius church foyer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Will be available this weekend at the Saturday Vigil Mass. Toddlers welcome with appropriate supervision.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE INFORMATION 2020 ENROLMENT

Interested families and students are warmly invited to attend information evenings on Wednesday 5th September at 5pm, or Thursday 25th October at 6.30pm. Open Mornings with tours will be held on Thursday 13th September, 9am – 10.30am, and Thursday 1st November, 9am -10.30am. Please register your attendance online via the Damascus College website www.damascus.vic.edu.au.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We welcome and continue to offer our prayers for our RCIA candidates: Anna Glenn, Liam McDonald, Ashley Rogers, Wendy Sanders and Melissa Watson, who are stepping forward in their journey of faith supported by their parish sponsors. The parish community wishes you well.

DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Ballarat Diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Program is now open for new participants. Low-cost online study and formation for lay workers in parish and other ministries, employed or volunteers. Sacraments, scripture, youth ministry, liturgy, leadership - many subjects available – 5 weeks per subject. New subjects include *The Mass*, *Survey of Catholic Social Teaching*, and *Islam*. Next study cycle starts September 2, contact Amanda by August 20. More info at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone. 5337 7125.

ARCHBISHOP'S DINNER INVITATION – FRIDAY, AUGUST 24

The Archbishop's Dinner is hosted by the Knights of the Southern Cross annually to raise funds for the education of Victoria's seminarians and the further education of our priests. This year will be the 20th anniversary of this dinner. All monies raised are divided equally between the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Dioceses of Sandhurst, Sale, Ballarat and the Military Ordinariate of Australia. Over the past 19 Dinners held, over \$1.1 million has been raised for this cause. See flyer on Notice Board.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIAN ELECTION FORUM

The Hon. James Merlino MP, Deputy Premier and other Parliamentary leaders will join us to engage on the issues that most impact on the wellbeing of Victorians, particularly those on the margins. Monday, August 27, 2018 at Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne at 8.30am for 9.00am - 10.00am. More information at the CSSV website www.css.org.au

JOY SPREADING IN BALLARAT

Stacey Atkins is the guest speaker at the next *Joy Spreading* event for young adults (18-30 yo) on Friday, September 14, 2018 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 at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 53377125.

WRITE TO SENATORS TO OPPOSE EUTHANASIA

The Senate will soon vote on a Bill which would allow territories to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide. Please contact your senators TODAY and ask them to protect vulnerable people by voting against the Bill. Visit the HOPE website to send your message <http://www.no euthanasia.org.au/sign>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS Spring 2018 — copies available at back of church.