

Reflection on the Gospel-13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 5:21-43)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

In Mark's gospel, we often find a story within a story. Some scholars refer to this technique as the making of a Markan sandwich, others as a framing device. In Mark 5:21-43, the frame consists of the two-part story of the desperately ill twelve year old daughter of Jairus, a synagogue official. Jairus falls at the feet of Jesus in an attitude of reverence and pleads with him to come and lay hands on her. Jesus is clearly known as a healer, one who can "save" life. The passage closes with the young woman's seeming death and restoration to life. In between, we have the story of an older woman, also seriously ill, possibly with a gynaecological problem: she has been haemorrhaging for twelve years.

The stories are linked in many ways, first by the repetition of the number twelve-a symbolic number in a Jewish context. Both the young Jewish woman and the older Jewish woman are in need of the saving power of God mediated through Jesus the healer. Later in the Markan story [7:24-30] a Gentile mother and daughter will beg for and receive that same saving power of God. Jairus' daughter does not speak for herself. Like all young women of that culture, ill or not, she is dependent on the voice of her father. The older woman comes tentatively "from behind". She speaks, but only to herself, as she touches Jesus' cloak and, through this touch, experiences healing in her body. Does the healing power of God suffice even the fabric of Jesus' cloak? The woman is finally shamed into telling all. Like Jairus, she falls at the feet of Jesus.

Jairus refers to his little girl on the brink of adulthood as "my daughter". Jesus addresses the older woman as "my daughter". Both women, the younger and the older, are daughters of Israel. Both are restored to health, one on account of her parents' faith (the unnamed mother and the named father), the other because of her own faith. Jesus the healer has embraced and responded to the pain of a woman alone on the one hand and of a family (mother, father, and daughter) on the other.

Towards the end of the gospel (14:3-9), this Jesus who has brought healing to little children, to older women and younger women, to older men and younger men, to Jews and to Gentiles, will himself become the recipient of the healing ministry of an insightful woman who draws on Earth elements and pours out healing ointment. He will recognise this action as a beautiful thing that she has done "in him" For now, the stories recount "the beautiful thing" he does in the lives of suffering humanity, irrespective of age or gender or status or ethnicity.

BULLETIN FOR 13th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

Parish Address: 84 Victoria Street, Ballarat East. 3350

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 29th JUNE 2015

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am at Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
SATURDAY:	Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

READINGS - THE 14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Ezekiel 2:2-5
Second:	2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel:	Mark 6:1-6

RECENT DEATHS: Jean Nolan, Margaret Lalor.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jane Auchetl.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Barb Gleeson, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Doreen Forbes, Mona Shillito, Cath Wheelahan.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.

Next Week: **Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,185.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit cards:	\$ 4,574.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>517.00</u>
		\$ 6,576.00

PRESBYTERY: \$ 1,162.00

EVENTS

- Friday, 3rd July **Caring Group Meeting** in Parish Hall at 10.00 am.
- Wednesdays **Rosary** in the Chapel of Visitation at St John of God Hospital at 12.45 pm. All welcome.
- Wednesday afternoons **Legion of Mary** meets at Nazareth House, Mill St Ballarat, at 1.30 pm. Enquiries: 5332 8624 or 53327227.
- **Legion of Mary Prayers:** Prayers of Petition to Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral from 11.15 am - 11.45 am on 1st & 3rd Thursdays.

CENTACARE

- A list of **Parent Programs** for terms 3 & 4 are available on the Notice Board.
- Details of the "Learning to Bloom" program, which will be held in August, are available on the notice board. Further details may be obtained from Lauren on: 5327 7960.

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in early December 2015. Details may be found at:

<http://www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au>

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

Will be taken up next weekend. Through this appeal we have the opportunity of supporting the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Parishioners are invited to contribute to our annual Winter Appeal. All donations will be used to enable members of the Society to assist the underprivileged and marginalised people in our community.

SVDP relies on donations, principally via our two annual appeals and proceeds of sales from our Vinnies stores to fund our works.

Our stores are currently in need of:

- Winter clothing
- Books

Donations can be delivered to the stores. Items for the Bridge Mall store can be handed in via the Little Bridge St entrance (ring the bell for access). If you are unable to deliver your items, small parcels can be left at the Piety Stall during June and July.

Members will deliver them to the store.

Special envelopes for cash donations are available at the Piety Stall.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

This week the Journey celebrates a major milestone - its 100th show birthday, kicking off with a Gospel reflection from newly ordained Fr. Stephen Varney. We also hear from Sr. Hilda Scott OSB, who challenges us to consider what really matters in our lives and Trish McCarthy encourages us to surrender our lives to God. Go to: www.jcr.org.au to subscribe or to www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime.

FR BARRY RYAN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Fr Barry Ryan will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination at the St Columba's Parish Church on Sunday, 19th July at the 10.00 am Mass. A morning tea will be held in the St Columba's Parish Hall (Howard Street) following Mass. All are most welcome.