

**Reflection on the Gospel- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 21:28-32)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

What does one do with passive-resistant behaviour? This is a question that many of us have to confront at some time because there are people in every walk of life who make an art form of saying yes and failing to follow through with action. Such people can seriously undermine the most worthy of projects or plans. We meet them in today's gospel. And what do we make of the slow starters, those who take time to come on board? We see them in today's gospel as well. Changing one's mind is not greatly valued in our society. It is seen as a sign of weakness. For evidence of this, one has only to listen to the taunts in parliament when one of our political leaders changes course in the light of new information. I suggest that changing one's mind can be an act of great courage and humility, even heroism. This is particularly so if it involves abandoning a self-serving direction for the sake of justice or compassion or the "common good".

Jesus addresses most of his parables to the disciples. In this instance, however, his audience comprises the chief priests and Jewish elders who have challenged his authority. Earlier in the chapter, this same audience is allied against Jesus (21:15). They are angered by the "amazing things" he does and by the public recognition he receives from the children in the temple. The parable is part of his response to these temple authorities. Like the second son, the temple authorities profess to do the will of God, but their actions belie their words. Jesus spells out the meaning of the parable as it relates to the disjunction between what they say and what they do. They have rejected the prophet John who came to them "in the way of righteousness". The tax collectors and prostitutes, "sinners" from the perspective of the authorities, accepted John's message, albeit belatedly like the first son, and are making their way into God's empire "before" the guardians of the religious institutions.

Voluntary changes in behaviour often come from a change of heart, from the "metanoia" of the gospel. There are some few who change course and make of their whole life, retrospectively, what they opt for as their future. Blessed Oscar Romero, former archbishop of San Salvador, for example, was initially slow to speak out against his government's suppression of basic human rights. He knew the cost of opposing the authorities. On March 23, 1980, he called on the soldiers, as Christians, to stop carrying out the government's repressive orders. On the following day, he was assassinated. There is always a cost in the pursuit of justice, generally less dramatic than the cost to Romero. Today's parable invites us to bring our actions into line with what we profess as Christian disciples, whatever the cost.

BULLETIN FOR THE 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, 2nd OCTOBER 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
THURSDAY:	No Mass
FRIDAY:	No Mass

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

READINGS	First: Isaiah 5:1-7
	Second: Philippians 4:6-9
	Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

RECENT DEATHS: Fr Paul Mercovich.

ANNIVERSARIES: Henk de Jong, Des Lee.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor, Mary Martin.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: Team 6: M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.
Next Week: Team 7: K. Cummins ©, J O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH: Envelopes: \$ 1,006.00
Loose: \$ 300.00
Direct Debits: \$ 320.00
\$ 1,626.00

PRESBYTERY: \$ 516.00

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

“God my creator breathe on me again, Renew me, Refresh me, extend my abilities. Body and Blood of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being, keep me well. O Holy Spirit use me. Amen”

CARING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 5th October in the Parish Hall at 10.00 am. All welcome.

**LORETO COLLEGE
BEHIND THE HISTORIC FENCE**

This is an opportunity for prospective families to visit the College in ‘action’.
Must register to attend: www.loreto.vic.edu.au or contact 5329 6184 or 5329 6137.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Would the person who hands in envelopes from the St Paul’s Anthiochian Orthodox Church in Dandenong please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

SUPPORTING EDMUND RICE WORKS: TIMOR-LESTE

Film luncheon “The Mountain Between Us”, plus afternoon tea, at the Regent Theatre on Saturday 22nd October at 2.30 pm Cost: \$20.00, school students \$15.00.
Contact Liz on 0417 347 262 or email lizh@iinet.com.au

**“REAL CARE, LOVE & COMPASSION”
- THE ALTERNATIVE TO EUTHANASIA**

See Notice Board for details.

ABSENCE

Fr Peter has gone back to school this week! He is attending an “intensive” at the Catholic Theological College on *Enhancing Catholic School Identity*.

RALLY FOR REFUGEES

Sunday, 8th October at 2.00 pm at the State Library, Swanston Street, CBD.
Phone Liz on 0405 736 265. See Notice Board for further details.

ST ALIPIUS COMMUNITY BALL

The fundraising committee at St Alipius Primary School are currently organising a school ball and would like to extend the invitation to the whole St Alipius Community.

When: Saturday, 21st October, 7 pm—late
Where: Victoria Bowls Club
Cost: \$30 per ticket, supper provided.
Live Band

Tickets will be available from the school office.

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENROLMENT
INFORMATION EVENING & OPEN MORNINGS**

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Evening and Open Mornings. The Information Evening will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents. Open Mornings are guided tours by Damascus students during school hours.

INFORMATION EVENING: Thursday, 26th October at 6.30 pm
Please arrive at 6.15 pm for registration.

OPEN MORNINGS: Thursday, 2nd and 9th November, 9 am -10.30 am

**DAMASCUS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
OF MERCY EDUCATION ON OUR BEAUTIFUL SITE**

Date & Time: Saturday, 28 October 2017, 2 pm—5 pm
Registration: Opens at 1.30 pm. Please arrive early to find a car park and register
Refreshment: Afternoon tea will be provided
Venue: Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear
RSVP: Friday, 27th October.
Register your attendance at www.damascus.vic.edu.au

ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE

Enrolments for 2019 Year 7 are now open and you are invited to submit your son’s application by 1st December 2017. Please contact the Registrar, Ms Caitlin Bennett for further information on 5331 1688