

## Reflection on the Gospel-28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 10:17-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Not too many of us commit murder or adultery. Not too many kidnap or take hostages or give false testimony in a court of law. Most are ready to honour and care for their parents in their old age. In other words, most of us are basically decent and honest and could make the same claim as does the wealthy man who runs up to Jesus, namely that we have kept the commandments from our youth. The man's question is actually a strange one. He wants to know what he must *do* in order to inherit eternal life. He seems unaware that inheritance depends, not on what one does, but on who one is. Jesus responds to his greeting, "Good Teacher", with a reminder that God is the source of all goodness, and then lets him know that keeping the commandments is not enough. Interestingly, Jesus adds a commandment that is not actually numbered among the "ten" but is to be found in an Essene document from Qumran: "You shall not defraud". This prepares the way for what follows.

First-century Mediterranean societies were "limited goods" societies. If a person acquired wealth, it was invariably understood to be at the expense of others. The wealthy were therefore looked upon with suspicion. Although Jesus looks at the man lovingly, he may nonetheless be hinting that his wealth has been acquired fraudulently. Jesus offers a challenge that the man is unable to meet: to sell what he has, give the proceeds to the poor, have "treasure in heaven", and "follow" him. The man retains his possessions and acquires a burden, the burden of sorrow. To share one's goods with those in need is too hard for some, Jesus admits, but not for those who are open to the power of God at work in their lives.

The concluding verses are puzzling. In declaring that those who have left everything and followed him are to have an abundance of this world's goods as well as eternal life, is Jesus modifying his earlier position? Is he reverting to a tradition that saw wealth as God's reward for righteous living? Is he suggesting that those who share their goods find they have more than enough? It is hard to know. The twist in the tale is that they will do it hard: "not without persecution". It is likely that Mark is describing his own experience within a persecuted community of believers some forty years after the death of Jesus. The happy ones were doubtless those who took the risk of sharing their goods with those in need. Our lucky country has still to learn that lesson. Welcoming the stranger and sharing our wealth with the dispossessed may demand of us a simpler way of life. Who knows what blessings it will bring if we dare to take up the challenge?

### BULLETIN FOR 28th 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, 12th OCTOBER 2015

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

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

#### READINGS - THE 29th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

First:	Isaiah 53:10-11
Second:	Hebrews 4:14-16
Gospel:	Mark 10:35-45

**RECENT DEATH:** Vin Downes.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jack Nolan, John Britt, John Barnett, Vera Gittings, Ena Kesting, Lindsay Beck, Eileen Power, Sandra Van-Kempen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Anthony Conroy, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Mary-Rose McLaren, Mona Shillito, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Linda Holland, Mick Kent.

### COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes.

Next Week: .**Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.



### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,047.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit cards:	\$ 1,380.00
	Direct debit:	\$ <u>1,445.00</u>
		\$ 4,172.00
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 658.00

### EVENTS

- Wednesday, 14th October **Social afternoon** in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm.
- 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 5332 7227.
- **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.

### PRAYER CARDS

A limited number of prayer cards for the "Synod on the Family" are available in the church this weekend.

### MERCY CONNECT BALLARAT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mercy Works is currently recruiting volunteers to support refugee students in Ballarat Schools through their Mercy Connect Project. The volunteer commitment is for approximately three hours per week for four school terms (during 2016). Experience working in an educational setting is preferred. Training held in February 2016. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: [mercyconnectb@gmail.com](mailto:mercyconnectb@gmail.com) for information and an application form.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- October, 14th - Fr. Kevin Lenehan - "St. Luke: Evangelist of Mercy" St. Patrick's Cathedral (small hall) 7.30 - 9.00 pm
- November, 1st - A liturgy of Lament and Hope - a diocesan response to child abuse - 2.00 pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Contact: Karen Davies on 0407 820 622 or [kdavies54@hotmail.com](mailto:kdavies54@hotmail.com) or Liz Hanrahan on 0417 347 262 or [lizh@aanet.com.au](mailto:lizh@aanet.com.au)
- Wednesday, 25th November - **Anointing Mass** at 2.00 pm.
- December, 8th - St. Alipius 7.00 pm - Opening of the Year of Mercy - details will be on later bulletin
- December, 13th - Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee - Holy Hour of Mercy. At St. Patrick's Cathedral - Opening the Door to Mercy to commence on 8th December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, 20th December 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to attend. By Bishop Paul Bird CSsR at 10.30 am. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

### ST. ALIPIUS PARISH BOOKLET

Many individuals and groups contribute to the life of our parish. These groups are diverse in nature, sustaining various areas of parish life: liturgical, sacramental, social, pastoral, outreach, education/spiritual renewal, communication. We'd like to share what our parish groups do with parishioners, newcomers and visitors to our parish. To that end we are producing an information booklet about the groups operating within our parish, outlining what they do and providing contact details, meeting times etc. for those who'd like to make contact and/or become involved. A list of parish groups is on the notice board at the church entrance, let's know of any we may have missed! Could we ask groups to provide a paragraph outlining their purpose/activities and a contact name and phone number/email address please? Information can be emailed to Kristen Murray: [kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au) or left at the presbytery.

### ST. ALIPIUS CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAM - TERM 4

The St. Alipius Children's Liturgy program for Term 4 will begin this weekend at our Vigil Mass (6.00 pm Saturday). The program operates throughout school terms. Children's Liturgy times are available on the notice board in the foyer of the church. For enquiries please contact Kristen Murray: 5340 0286.