

**Reflection on the Gospel-32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 12:38-44)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Whether the longer or shorter gospel reading is selected for today's liturgy, the literary context deserves attention. Jesus is teaching the crowds in the Jerusalem Temple. He knows the vulnerability of many of the people around him and issues a warning about the grandiose behaviour of the Jerusalem scribes. The scribes were generally learned men on whom the people relied for rulings in matters of sacred law as well as for drawing up contracts and other important documents. They commanded the respect of many of the people. Jesus is not impressed by the behaviour of some of the scribes. He sees their pomposity as a mask for dishonesty and exploitation: they will receive the "greater condemnation". They "devour the houses of widows" and hide behind the pretext of long prayers. Widows included women who had lost their husbands through death or divorce as well as single unmarried women. They were women alone without male protection in a patriarchal society and without the benefit of a social security system. They were dependent for survival upon the care of family and community. Jesus' words of condemnation are strong words that will understandably provoke a reaction. It is no surprise that the Jerusalem scribes are among those who later conspire to kill him (Mark 14:1).

It is easy enough to be taken in by the posturing of those who present as superior and who look for status recognition. It is also easy to miss the goodness of those on the edge even if it is happening before our very eyes. The context presents Jesus as attuned to the plight of the widows. He now notices and draws the attention of his disciples to the action of one particular "destitute" widow. Her tiny contribution to the treasury of two copper coins for the upkeep of the Temple is far more significant than the big sums contributed by the wealthy out of their excess. Is this woman being presented as the victim of an unjust system that extracts from her what she cannot afford, as some commentators insist? Or is the Markan Jesus presenting her as a free agent, a model of discipleship, who offers everything she has to live on? It may not be necessary to choose between these two interpretations. It is clear that this woman's action provides a striking contrast to that of the scribes, like the action of another woman who, a little later in the story, breaks a precious jar and pours an abundance of healing ointment over the head of Jesus as he faces the prospect of death. As the gospel draws to a close, then, we find two stories of extravagantly generous unnamed women, stories told in memory of their gospel foolishness.

BULLETIN FOR 32nd 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

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING
MONDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2015**

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| MONDAY: | No Mass |
| TUESDAY: | No Mass |
| WEDNESDAY: | No Mass |
| THURSDAY: | 9.30 am in Parish Church |
| FRIDAY: | No Mass |
| 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 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| First: | Daniel 12:1-3 |
| Second: | Hebrews 10:11-14.18 |
| Gospel: | Mark 13:24-32 |

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin O'Keefe, Pat Towns, Alex Forbes, Reg Delaney, Bob Conroy.

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

Next Week: **Team 10:** J. Kennedy ©, P. Kennedy, L. Mullane.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| PARISH: | Envelopes: | \$ 788.00 |
| | Loose money: | \$ 300.00 |
| | Direct debit: | \$ <u>1,235.00</u> |
| | | \$ 2,323.00 |
| PRESBYTERY: | | \$ 827.00 |

EVENTS

- Sunday, 8th November **Mass at Pootilla Cemetery** at 9.30 am.
- Wednesday, 11th November **Social afternoon** in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm.
- Saturday, 21st November **Nazareth House Auxiliary Fete** at 10.00 am. See notice board.
- Wednesday, 25th November **Anointing Mass** at 2.00 pm.

EUCCHARIST TO THE HOMES

Parishioners have become accustomed to seeing ministers assisting the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist. However some may not be aware that the special ministers may also take the Eucharist to family members or friends who, because of age or illness, are unable to attend Mass in person.

To arrange a visit, please contact Jim Moran at the parish office: 5332 6611, or for the Buninyong area, Margaret McCarty: 5341 3243.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

There are many people who are less fortunate than we are, especially at Christmas. We are seeking a person who may be prepared to assist in co-ordinating gift giving to a number of institutional homes in our parish. If you wish to know more please contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

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 is to be held in February 2016. Contact Paulene Barton - Mercy Connect Project Coordinator on 0417 624 330 or email: mercyconnectb@gmail.com for information and an application form.

REMEMBRANCE MASS

It is a practice of the Catholic Church to pray for the dead during the month of November. In the spirit of this occasion, we at St Alipius Parish have developed our own custom of celebrating a Mass for parishioners who have died in the past year. This year this Mass is to be on **Saturday, 14th November at 6.00 pm.** Following the Mass a "cuppa" will be provided in the hall.

ST VINCENT de PAUL

SVDP is looking to recruit some interested volunteers to work as application interviewers for their No Interest Loan Scheme. The role required good interpersonal skills and basic computer skills. Training will be provided. The hours are probably 9.00 am till noon each Thursday. However, if sufficient volunteers apply there could be a roster so that attendance will not be required each week. These positions will be located at the Ballarat Assistance Centre in Dawson Street. Any enquiries should be directed to Bernie Holloway on 0417 593 793.

ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP

Commencing 10.00 am, 26th November in the Meeting Room of St Alipius Church.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee—Holy Year of Mercy to Commence to commence on 8th December, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, 20th November, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to attend the Opening of the Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, 13th December, 2015, at 10.30 am. Refreshments will follow the Mass.