

**Reflection on the Gospel-12th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 9:18-24)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The mention of prayer in Luke is always a signal that something momentous is about to happen. Today's gospel opens with the puzzling assertion that Jesus is praying "alone" although his disciples are with him. It is as if his conversation with them is part of Jesus' solitary prayer. This gives us an insight into the prayer of Jesus: his prayer and his life mission are intimately connected. It is important for him and for his mission that his disciples come to recognise who he is. He puts two questions to them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?" The crowds see him as John the Baptist or Elijah or one of the prophets "arisen". We can hear the disciples all joining in this part of the conversation, sharing what they have heard. Their answers echo an earlier passage in this same chapter of Luke where Herod Antipas is said to be puzzled by such descriptions of Jesus and asks "Who is this about whom I hear such things?" (Luke 9:7-9).

Since Herod put this question, Jesus has pursued his ministry of teaching and healing and responding to the hunger of the crowds. Jesus himself now raises the question of his identity. We can sense the silence of the disciples when they are faced with the second question, "Who do you say that I am?" It is Peter alone who answers this time. For him and for the other disciples, Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed of God. Jesus instructs them to keep this to themselves. The disciples have much to learn before they can truly understand what they profess.

Within first-century Judaism, many expected a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the occupiers and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Even as Peter identifies Jesus as the "Messiah of God", it is unlikely that his notion of messiah or Christ leaves room for a suffering Messiah. Has Jesus in his prayer been pondering the way of suffering he is to endure if his work as the Messiah of God is to be completed? He is to undergo "great suffering", he will be rejected by the religious authorities, he will be put to death and God will raise him up. This description meets none of the popular expectations of God's Messiah.

In case the disciples miss the implications of this, Jesus makes it clear that suffering is also the lot of those who want to "follow" him. Discipleship, now as then, has nothing to do with protecting one's own interests, with "saving one's life". It has everything to do with hearing and responding to the distress of the human poor and the distress of the earth itself.

BULLETIN for THE 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



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, 20th JUNE 2016**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am - End of Term Mass—Emmaus Catholic Primary School
FRIDAY:	12.00 noon - End of Term Mass—St Alipius Catholic Primary School
SATURDAY:	Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	1 King 19:16.19-21
	Second:	Galatians 5:13-18
	Gospel:	Luke 9:51-62

ANNIVERSARIES: Jean Nolan, Danny Roche, Greg Dunn, Janis Stubbings, Nora Roach, Mary Hoy, Richard Roach, Thomas Roach, P. Purcell, Harold Dunham, Kevin Coleman.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Nathan Cambell, Karen Hayes, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Marinna Lenkic, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Mary Barnett, Frank Forbes, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Margaret Gallagher, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Christian Ashby, Tom Ballinger, Robert Stevenson, Gerard Molloy.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

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



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,049.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>905.00</u>
		\$ 2,254.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 925.00

VICTORIAN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

A fundraising concert will be held at **Ss Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong** next **Sunday, 26th June at 2.00 pm.** Tickets **\$30.** Afternoon tea provided. Contact John or Geraldine White on 5341 2675 or 0402 808 299.

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend.

ASYLUM SEEKER FUNDRAISER
Annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Please come along and hear how former child soldier from South Sudan, Isaac Moses, a Ballarat resident has risen from the trauma of war and displacement, to become an Australian citizen and student of Social Work at Federation University.

Wednesday, 22nd June at 12.30, Nazareth House Hall, Mill St, Ballarat. Entry \$20. Conc. \$15. Cake stall and competitions.

All welcome - especially children. Enquiries - Carmel: 5332 2103 or 0401 175 045; annekav123@yahoo.co.uk or

http://www.parramattamercy.org.au/images/logos/how_logo.jpg

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 22nd June in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Because of the lesser number of parishioners attending the 9.00 am Mass at St Alipius Church it has been decided that as from July we will only have three Ministers of the Eucharist at that Mass.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our "Rethink Homelessness this Winter" appeal. To give you some indication of the work of SVDP locally we share with you the following statistics.

In the first five months of this year the Society has distributed support to the value of \$244,000 within the Ballarat area. 82% of this was for food aid. During this period we have experienced a 12% increase in the number of people seeking assistance.

We are most grateful for the support we received from our parish as it enables us to continue our support for those in need.

Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall.

All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Ballarat Diocese has initiated a Lay Pastoral Ministry Program that offers opportunities for formation, study, support and accreditation for lay workers, both employees and volunteers, in the diocese. Full information is on the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (under Services & Agencies/Pastoral Ministry) or you can contact Amanda Smith, ph: 5337 7125 or email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR
Kalumburu Mission

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist in its important work as an Administrator for Kalumburu Mission. Ideally suited to a couple, the role requires: Management/administration skills; good people skills; church commitment; practical skills; experience working closely with Aboriginal people; a good sense of humour and being prepared to go the extra mile, this is not a 9 - 5 position; able to commit to a minimum period of one year. Package includes accommodation, living costs and a stipend.

You can learn more about Kalumburu Mission on www.kalumburumission.org.au. For further details, and an application form, please contact Volunteer Coordinator.