

Reflection on the Gospel-13th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 9:51-62)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Gary Cohen's film, *Judah & Mohammad*, depicts the separate lives and education of two teenage school boys, one a Jewish Israeli and the other a Palestinian Arab. Judah and Mohammad have never met and are unlikely ever to do so. Geographically they are near neighbours, but their lives are separated by a "security wall" that keeps them and their people effectively separated and suspicious of each other, despite the desire for peace of many on both sides of the wall. Sandy Tolan's heart-wrenching novel, *The Lemon Tree*, tells a similar story of women on either side of the divide. Both stories reflect a contemporary story of violent conflict and hostility. That is more or less how it was between Jews and Samaritans in the first century, although the hostility in that instance had endured for centuries.

A gracious welcome for Jesus and his friends could hardly have been expected in that climate, although it seems they would have been welcomed had Jesus planned to stay and worship in the temple on Mt. Gerizim, the centre of Samaritan life and worship. The problem for the Samaritans is his decision to use Samaritan territory simply as a staging post on his journey to Jerusalem, the centre of Jewish life and worship. The Samaritans "did not receive him because his face was set towards Jerusalem".

The Galilean Jewish disciples James and John have an excessively violent reaction to the unwelcoming Samaritans: "Do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" The force of this question can easily be lost. James and John have heard Jesus telling them to love their enemies, to do good to those who hate them, bless those who curse them, and pray for those who mistreat them (6:28-28). And yet they want to call down fire on those who do not receive him. Jesus makes it clear that violence is not the way of God's prophet, even in the face of rejection. He has no word of condemnation for the villagers who failed to receive him but simply moves on to another village. The text simply says that he turns and rebukes his two disciples.

There is a sense of relentlessness in this gospel passage. Jesus has "set his face to Jerusalem" and there is no turning back for him or for those who join him on the journey. Jesus, in the company of his disciples, now moves inexorably to Jerusalem where he will be "lifted up" in death and exaltation. Bringing the good news of God's kin-dom is the purpose of the journey. We are invited to enter into that journey with all its demands and deprivations. There is no room on this journey, it seems, for clinging to familiar securities.

BULLETIN for THE 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 27th JUNE 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	10.30 am - Funeral Mass in Parish Church
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

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Isaiah 66:10-14
	Second:	Galatians 6:14-18
	Gospel:	Luke 10:1-12.17-20

RECENT DEATHS: Margot Driscoll (Fr. Justin's mother), Tom Ballinger.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jane Auchettl, Pat White, Frank Dodd, Jack Dodd.

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, Robert Stevenson, Gerard Molloy.

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:	\$ 1,148.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit cards:	\$ 3,749.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>532.00</u>
		\$ 5,729.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,614.00

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.

VICTORIAN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

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

REFUGEE WEEK

Concludes this Sunday with the screening of Freedom Stories (ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances) at M.A.D.E. (Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka).

2.00 pm - Afternoon tea.

2.30 pm - Film screening.

4.15 pm - Director speaks.

Tickets are \$15.00 at the door and covers film and afternoon tea.

PRE-ELECTION FORUM—FEDERAL ELECTION: JULY, 2nd 2016

You are invited to attend a pre-election forum on **Monday, 27th June** from 6.00 pm to 7.45 pm at the Ballarat Central Uniting Church, cnr Dana & Lydiard St Sth, Ballarat. This is an opportunity to hear the viewpoints of the Candidates for Ballarat on issues for a just society and to ask them your questions.

CARING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 1st July at 10.00 am in St. Alipius Hall. All welcome.

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.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE 2016

Once again The Annual Collection for the Holy Father is to be taken up throughout the world on a weekend near the Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul (29th June 2016). The Collection for this Parish will be taken up next weekend **2nd & 3rd July**.

Bishop Paul is aware of the many demands made on the people of the Diocese throughout the year by way of appeals for financial support. However, this particular Appeal does require special attention as through this collection we have the opportunity of supporting the Pope's pastoral care for people around the world.

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. This program commences **10th July 2016**. There are six teaching cycles per year on Liturgy, Sacraments & RCIA, Prayer Leadership, Scriptures, Church History, Social Justice and Youth Ministry. See the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (under Services & Agencies/Pastoral Ministry) or contact Amanda Smith, ph: 5337 7125 or 0427 748 867 or email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Brochures are on the Notice Board.