

Reflection on the Gospel-15th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 10:25-37)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The present ecological crisis calls us to new ways of being neighbour. We used to speak in terms of thinking globally and acting locally. If we are to be neighbour in our times, we need to think cosmically as well as globally, and to act globally as well as locally. Thinking cosmically means embracing the entire 14 billion year story of our expanding and evolving universe. It means accepting our cosmic identity and our intimate connectedness to the whole of creation. Thinking cosmically elicits wonder and respect for all created being and especially for God who is Source and Sustainer of all that exists. Cosmic thinking provides a context for acting globally and locally, for being neighbour in our local and global environments.

Today's gospel story is about being neighbour. It foregrounds the human characters and their relationships with each other. The lawyer who questions Jesus is trying to catch him out. Like Jesus' audience, this legal expert knows the Jewish law regarding love of God and of one's neighbour. He answers Jesus' first question correctly. This leads to another "test" question: "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus replies with a subversive story that ends in yet another question: "Which of these three was neighbour...?" The lawyer cannot avoid the obvious answer, though it would cost a Jewish legal expert dearly to admit that a Samaritan could be neighbour to a Jew in need. Rather than utter the word "Samaritan" he answers obliquely, "the one who showed mercy".

The Samaritan is "moved with compassion", literally "moved in the depths of his being". The Samaritan befriends the wounded traveller and draws on earth resources to care for him: fabric to bind the wounds, wine and oil for healing, his "own animal" as transport, finance for accommodation, companionship at the inn, provision for on-going care. The story offers the shocking suggestion that a Samaritan knows more about love of God and of neighbour than do those who officiate in temple worship, namely the priest and the Levite who "pass by".

Cosmic thinking invites us to focus not just on the human characters from different cultures and social strata in this story, but also on the neighbourly animal, the fruit of the vine and of the olive grove, and the silver coins formed of material extracted from the earth and engaged as signs of compassionate neighbourly love. It invites us to reverence all of creation and the Creator of all that is.

BULLETIN for THE 15th 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, 11th JULY 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am In Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
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

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Genesis 18:1-10
	Second:	Col 1:24-28
	Gospel:	Luke 10:38-42

RECENT DEATHS: Marinna Lenkic.

ANNIVERSARIES: Edward John Duck, Jason Luke Duck S.A.C.

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, K. McKeegan, M. Ridsdale.

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



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 932.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,217.00</u>
		\$ 2,449.50
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 1,114.00

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Your Statements/envelopes for the last financial year are available for collection this weekend.

THANK YOU

Sincere thanks are expressed for all who have offered prayers for Marinna Lenkic during her illness.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset...Your Marriage!

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit.

There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

2016 Melbourne weekend dates: 19 - 21 Aug & 11 - 13 Nov

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm on Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: PH: Marianne & Marcel 03) 9733 0997; email:

vicbookings@wwme.org.au; Website: www.wwme.org.au

ATTENTION

Please do not park cars on the right hand side of the Victoria Street service lane. This is both a Safety Issue and a Courtesy Issue. Access must be left for Ambulance, Fire or Police vehicles. Residents in the houses on the west end of the street have a right to access to their homes.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 13th July in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

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.

On-line study—a wide range of subjects presented as short courses—you can do one subject or many. Subjects are offered six times a year and you can start at whichever time suits you.

Full information is on the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (under Services & Agencies/Pastoral Ministry) or contact Amanda Smith, ph: 5337 7125; 0427 748 867 or email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Brochures are on the Notice Board.