

Reflection on the Gospel-16th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 10:38-42)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The story of Martha and Mary has been interpreted fairly consistently over the centuries. Mary's silent contemplative pose at the feet of Jesus is generally affirmed while Martha's action-oriented focus is seen as a less desirable Christian stance. To be a "Mary" is to "choose the better part". To be a "Martha" is to be "anxious and distracted about many things".

In recent times, some interpreters have re-evaluated this reading of the Martha-Mary story. They have drawn attention to the many voices that inform the gospels and have suggested that this particular text reflects a struggle in early Church communities over the role of women in leadership and ministry. One voice in the text comes from those who want to downplay the initiative of women like Martha and to affirm the silence of women like Mary. The same voice functions to pit the two women over against each other and to cast Jesus in the role of arbiter between them, approving Mary's choice over against Martha's. This voice has had the effect of creating a false dichotomy and of reducing the women to exemplars of active ministry on the one hand and of quiet contemplation on the other. In other words, the judgment of Luke's Jesus reflects the views of a certain group in Luke's house churches rather than the words of Jesus of Nazareth.

A more women-friendly voice in the text presents Martha as the householder who welcomes or receives Jesus into her household church. This is possibly the voice of a circle of women disciples who preserved memories of women like Martha and Mary in less divisive ways. For these women, Martha is a generous host who uses her resources for the sake of the community. She welcomes those who share faith in Jesus, among them her sister Mary. The designation "sister" does not necessarily denote blood relationship. Mary may be one among many sisters and brothers in faith who gather to hear the teaching of Jesus. According to the narrator, Martha is "pulled in every direction" (*periespato*) by many ministerial tasks (*peri pollēn diakonian*), and most leaders can sympathise with her in this. There is no indication in this description that she is distracted. This is in contrast with the subsequent evaluative comments of the Lukan Jesus: coming from the lips of Jesus, the expression "anxious and troubled by many things" services a negative interpretation of Martha's leadership.

This story is problematic in many ways. It forms part of a broader Lukan canvas where women provide the model for leadership but are more often than not excluded from its exercise. This is in stark contrast with the ways that women are presented elsewhere in the gospels, especially in John.

BULLETIN for THE 16th 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, 18th 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:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Genesis 18:20-32
	Second:	Col 2:12-14
	Gospel:	Luke 11:1-13

RECENT DEATHS: Marie Lindorff, John Butler, Frank Greenacre, Anne McRory

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Hanrahan, Nancy Flanagan, Mary Carter, Molly Flanagan, Basil Roach, Patrick Roach, Joseph Roach.

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.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: .**Team 10:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,133.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>375.00</u>
		\$ 1,808.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 775.00

GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST DENENTION

The election has come and gone and it seems that we are no closer in seeing the closure of Nauru and Manus.

The focus of Grandmothers Against Detention of Refuge Children is to bring to the attention of politicians and the community the fact that Australia detains children. There are children in community detention here and over fifty children languishing indefinitely on Nauru.

Please join us to keep reminding Ballarat—**DON'T FORGET THE CHILDREN**

Where: Outside the Town Hall on the median strip.

Wear purple and rug up. Wet weather venue TBA.

Contact: Cath 0437 185 238.

COUNTING TEAMS

As there are now eleven counting teams your counting cycle may have altered, so please keep an eye on the bulletin for your date. If there are any parishioners who may wish to be involved in counting our weekend collections please contact Jim on 5332 6611 for information.

CAMPION CENTRE OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

Finding meaning and hope in everyday life. Do you feel overwhelmed? Are you searching for a different way of living?

You might be interested in a day of awareness, listening , reflection and connection according to the way of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Sunday, 7th August at Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Kew.

For further details see notice on Notice Board, or contact 9854 8110 or email secretary@campion.asn.au or marynolanau@gmail.com

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.

THANK YOU

Madeleine Ballinger and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during Tom's long illness, and following his death. Special thanks to Fr Adrian, Sr Joan, and the Sisters of Mercy.

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY COFFEE PARTY

Friday, 5th August at 1.30 pm at Nazareth House, Mill Street, Ballarat. Entrance prize, spinning wheel, devonshire tea, fancy goods, produce stall. All welcome.

POP UP SHOP

The "Pop up shop for Homeless and those in Need" needs socks to distribute to the homeless and those in need. They have distributed beanies, scarves and gloves, but have been asked for socks.

Do you think you could pop a pair of socks, or perhaps two pair, into you shopping trolley next time you are at the supermarket?

We all know how cold Ballarat is, and the days and nights are getting colder.

Please have a warm heart to give others warm feet.

Collection baskets are at the back of the church.

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.