

Reflection on the Gospel-19th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 12:32-48; shorter form 12:35-40)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The longer form of today's gospel brings together a number of loosely connected sayings of Jesus about trust and vigilance. Jesus addresses his disciples affectionately as a "little flock". There is no need for fear: God, their "father", has delighted in giving them "the kin-dom" and they are to be generous in their turn. They are to sell their material possessions and give "alms" or, in a more accurate translation of the Greek original, they are to use their resources to engage in "works of mercy" (*eleēmosunē*). Their security resides in Jesus' assurance: "Where your treasure (or treasury) is, there your heart will be also." The parental and affectionate language of the opening verses is in sharp contrast with the violent imagery of the latter part of the gospel reading. Contrary to what some have argued in the past, the murderous slave master who cuts recalcitrant slaves into pieces can never be understood as a gospel image of God. The Lukan Jesus is simply engaging his hearers' experience of slavery to make a point about the need for attentiveness to the demands of the gospel. The vigilant slave is said to be "blessed" or "happy" or "privileged". From a contemporary perspective, it seems strange indeed to speak of a slave as fortunate. As the story unfolds, we realise that the slave's is a relative happiness vis-à-vis the fate of the other slaves.

The shorter form of the gospel in 12:35-40 presents a very strange teaching that would surely have brought smiles all round, if not outright laughter, from its earliest hearers. The word picture that Luke paints is simply not credible in a first century setting where slavery was taken for granted and where the respective roles of masters and slaves were characterised more by extreme violence than by mutuality of any sort. The disciples are told to be like slaves who keep vigil all night long as they await the return of their master from a wedding banquet. Their function is to open the door when he knocks and, if they are awake enough to perform this function, there will be an extraordinary reversal of roles: the slaves will sit down at table while the master assumes the role of slave and serves their meal.

The disciples are being prepared for Jesus' announcement later in the narrative that he is among them as one who serves. They need to understand that something extraordinary is happening, even more extraordinary than the slave-master banquet scenario might suggest. God's way of being in the world is full of healing experiences and life-enhancing surprises. The final verses of the shorter reading shift to the image of the thief in the night. They are also about vigilance, being watchful and alert so as not to be taken by surprise in the final reckoning.

BULLETIN for THE 19th 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, 8th AUGUST 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	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Jeremiah 38:4-6.8-10
	Second:	Hebrews 12:1-4
	Gospel:	Luke 12:49-53

RECENT DEATH: Brendon Sexton, Bill Heagney.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ivan Boadle, Jane & Norman Perkins.

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

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane.

Next Week: .**Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,827.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>367.00</u>
		\$ 2,494.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 593.00

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our “Rethink Homelessness this Winter” appeal. Envelopes are available at the Piety Stall. All donations are used in the Ballarat area and donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

POP UP SHOP

Thank you to all who have filled the box at the back of the church with socks. It was overflowing this week. The socks will be distributed through the Pop Up Shop for the Homeless and those in Need. The box will be there for the next few weeks, and all items are given free to the homeless and those in need.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 10th August in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street

MELBOURNE SINGERS OF THE GOSPEL

Are giving a concert on **Saturday, 20th August at 3.00 pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church.**

All proceeds will go to UnitingCare Ballarat’s Homelessness programs, including Breezeway.

Last year 1600 families or individuals made contact with UnitingCare Ballarat seeking housing assistance, and at present there is a campaign in Ballarat to halve the homelessness by the year 2020.

ENVELOPE

Would the person who recently used Env. No. 51 (blue) from the previous program please contact Jim on 5332 6611.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Fr Adrian who celebrates 47 years of ordination to the priesthood this Sunday.

“WELCOME ALL”

As a school body the strives to “**Welcome All**” within our community , Emmaus Catholic Primary School has been working towards hosting an event to “**Celebrate our Diversity**” with people from Ballarat/Buninyong of different faith backgrounds including Christian, Judaism, Islam and Hinduism.

We would be honoured if parishioners of St Alipius would also join us for this Occasion and partake in the sharing of friendship, food and faith.

Date: Sunday, 21st August 2016

Time: 12 noon—2.00 pm

Venue: Emmaus Catholic Primary School - Multi-Purpose Facility (“Wayaperri”)

If anyone is interested in joining us for this celebration, please contact our school by Friday, 12th August on 5330 2266 to assist us for catering purposes.

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE PILIPINO ROSARY GROUP

You and your friends are cordially invited to join us for Holy Mass on Sunday, 14th August at St James Catholic Church, Sebastopol at 6.30 pm. Please join with us for fellowship dinner afterwards. Contact Shirl 5338 1266 or Urbana 0419 558 965.

CWL MORNING OF RELECTION

CWL general members invite you to a morning of reflection with Fr James Kerr at Nazareth house on Friday, 12th August at 10.00 am. Morning tea available from 9.30 am. There will be time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Penance. Mass will be celebrated at midday, followed by a light lunch. Bookings by Wednesday. 10th August. Cost \$12.00 per person. Enquiries to Maureen on 0431 273 953 or Sheila on 0407 884 681.

BOMBS, BLASPHEMY and RELIGION in PAKISTAN

Fr Robert McCulloch will present “Bombs, Blasphemy and Religion in Pakistan” on Friday, 19th August at 7.00 pm in the Nazareth House Hall, Mill Street. This talk will be preceded by Holy Mass at 6.00 pm in the Chapel. Entry by donation and a plate of supper. Refreshments will follow the presentation. Enquiries to Carmel on 0401 175 045 or 5332 2103. All welcome.

ST ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS

Are available for collection this weekend near the Piety Stall.