

Reflection on the Gospel-21st Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 13:22-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

We all know people or groups who seem to have an ingrained sense of entitlement or privilege, people who put themselves first without regard for the sensitivities or rights of others. Whether their behaviour derives from childhood experiences of over-indulgence or from some other source, it can be quite divisive and even destructive of family and workplace and community. Those who consistently put themselves first will often find themselves last in the sense that they are often simply tolerated rather than welcomed in most circles.

As Jesus makes his way from one town to another on his way to Jerusalem, "someone" puts a question to him. The question is about salvation: "Will only a few be saved?" or, more accurately, "Are only the few saved?" Jesus treats it as a rhetorical question that presupposes an affirmative answer. His answer could be interpreted as affirmative, even if it is a far cry from the expected response. While the question comes from one person, Jesus' response is "to them". These people have shared table fellowship with him. Their insistence that they have eaten with him may suggest they are part of the crowd who has been following him from Galilee. They may even be those who objected to Jesus' less than desirable table companions, the tax-collectors and sinners (Luke 7:34). They have heard his teaching: "You taught in our streets".

Jesus' reply indicates that the tables have turned. It would come as no surprise to a Jewish audience to hear Jesus stating that the kingdom belongs to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets. Jesus' assertion that it also belongs to those who come from far and wide, "from east and west and north and south", might be less than palatable to those who see themselves as "first" in the schema of salvation.

Those who share in the banquet in God's kingdom, the "saved", have prevailed in the struggle to enter through the "narrow door". Entry is by no means restricted to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: it belongs to all who hear the word of God and put it into practice. The inclusion or "salvation" of outsiders will cause grief among "evil-doers". These evil-doers include those who have eaten with Jesus and who have heard his teaching without effect and who, consequently, have failed to commit themselves to the struggle to establish God's reign of justice and peace and reconciliation. There is no privileged access to salvation on the basis of birth or race or any other contingency. While the "door" to salvation may be "narrow", the Lukan Jesus has already declared that it is open to all who hear the word of God and "hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance" (8:15).

BULLETIN for THE 21st 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

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 22nd AUGUST 2016

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| MONDAY: | No Mass |
| TUESDAY: | 11.00 am in Mercy Centre |
| WEDNESDAY: | No Mass |
| THURSDAY: | 9.30 am in Parish Church |
| FRIDAY: | 9.30 am in Parish Church |
| SATURDAY: | No Sacrament of Reconciliation |

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

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| READINGS - | First: | Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29 |
| | Second: | Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24 |
| | Gospel: | Luke 14:1, 7-14 |

RECENT DEATHS: Josie Bird (Bishop Paul's sister), Margaret Gallagher.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jacob McGarry, Graham Simmons, Geoffrey McCartin.

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, Kaye Tuddenham.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: .**Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colosante.

Next Week: .**Team 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

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| PARISH: | Envelopes: | \$ 1,781.20 |
| | Loose money: | \$ 300.00 |
| | Direct debits: | \$ <u>217.00</u> |
| | | \$ 2,298.20 |
| PRESBYTERY: | | \$ 808.00 |

DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Evening. The Information Evening will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents.

Information Evening: Wednesday, 7th September at 5.00 pm. Please arrive at 4.45 pm for registration.

Students of all ages are welcome to attend.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE YEAR 7 INFORMATION NIGHT

The College will conduct the **2018 Year 7 Information Night on Wednesday, 26th October from 7.30 pm in the College Chapel.**

Families will have the opportunity to meet with the Headmaster, Mr John Crowley and Head of Junior School, Mr John Richards as well as learn more about the exciting curricular and co-curricular opportunities provided by the College. Families will also be invited to a College tour taking in all curriculum areas.

To receive a 2018 Enrolment Package please contact Mrs Caitlin Bennett on 5331 1688 or cbennet@stpats.vic.edu.au

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. You can commence in either late August or in October (or next year). If you are interested, please first check out the details on the diocesan website (link at bottom right of front page), then contact Amanda Smith, ph: 5337 7125, email:

amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 24th August in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

FR. SHANE MACKINLAY'S SILVER JUBILEE

Fr. Shane Mackinlay will celebrate his 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on 6th September this year. The Bungaree and Gordon parishes will celebrate this event with Fr. Shane at 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 11th September, at St. Michael's, Bungaree, followed by lunch in the Parish Centre; and at 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 18th September, at St. Brigid's, Ballan. All welcome.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY 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.

NET MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

NET Ministries Australia is a non-profit organisation committed to the evangelisation of Australia's youth. NET exists to encourage young people to love Jesus and embrace the church. Since its beginning in 1988, NET has stood firm in its belief that the best way to evangelise a young person is with another young person.

Each year NET calls together around 50 catholic men and women, aged 18 to 30, to be formed as missionary disciples and commissioned for a year of volunteer youth work. They work in teams in parishes, schools and universities offering themselves as authentic witnesses of the gospel. They run retreats, lead youth groups and host social events among many other things.

NET is currently looking for passionate young men and women who want to have the adventure of a lifetime to join the mission in 2017. Are you one of them? If you're interested in the mission of NET, and want to learn more about how you can be part of it, go to our website www.netministries.com.au or find us on Facebook at "NETAustralia".

CLOSE THE CAMPS, BRING REFUGEES HERE

Rally at the State Library, Melbourne, at 1.00 pm on Saturday, 27th August.

A number are catching the 10.19 am train from the Ballarat Station.

For further information please contact Lucy on 0404 728 104. See Notice Board.

ENVELOPE

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