

**Reflection on the Gospel-23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 14:25-33)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

For many centuries the northern Syrian city of Aleppo pulsed with life. That life was fuelled by culture and commerce and pride in a long and colourful history. Five years of civil war has more than decimated the population and virtually reduced the city to rubble. Amidst all the turmoil and danger, medical personnel from the international community risk their lives on a regular basis to cross the Turkish border and travel under cover of darkness to bring some measure of relief to a suffering people. Whether explicitly motivated by the Christian gospel or not, these people embody its spirit of self-giving for the sake of others.

On the long journey from Galilee through Samaritan territory to the city of Jerusalem, Jesus attracts a huge following and teaches relentlessly about the ways of God. By the time he reaches Jerusalem, the crowds have thinned considerably. Is this because it is too hard to persist with their initial impulse to follow the way of the gospel and the one who embodies its values? Implicit in Jesus' teaching about carrying one's cross is a reminder of the intense pain and sacrifice involved in being a disciple. It sometimes means going against what other family members want. It may even involve risking one's life for the sake of others. In the context of the Roman Empire, criminals who were sentenced to die by crucifixion carried to the place of execution the cross beam on which they would hang. The cross image is thus shocking for anyone. It is quite alienating for the faint hearted.

The term "hate" (*misein*) in this context seems harsh. The English translation fails to do justice, however, to the original Greek or the Hebrew that underlies this biblical notion. To "hate" in biblical terms is to "leave aside". Disciples are expected to love one another. There are times, however, when they have to "leave aside" the wishes of those they love most for the sake of a gospel call to justice, compassion, and right relationship. If we are attentive to the gender bias of this ancient text, we might note that married men are addressed while married women are not. Here as elsewhere, women have to read against the grain of the text in order to hear its message. Finally, there is a call in this gospel passage to "leave aside" unnecessary possessions. In a time of planetary vulnerability and of growing division between the privileged and the marginalised of the Earth community, the teaching of the Lukan Jesus has a particular resonance. There is no place in a gospel way of life for self-indulgence, for exploitation of others, or for self-centred appropriation of the goods of the earth.

BULLETIN for THE 23rd 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, 5th SEPTEMBER 2016**

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

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

24rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Exodus 32:7-11.13-14
	Second:	1 Timothy 1:12-17
	Gospel:	Luke 15:1-32

RECENT DEATH: Lourdes Stanislaus (Fr Neville's mother).

ANNIVERSARIES: Owen Brennan, John Nolan, Max Braybrook, Raymond Thomas Askwith, John Alexander Askwith.

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, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Gerard Molloy, Peter Clohesy, Kaye Tuddenham.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 5:** J. Moran ©, B. Forbes, C. Napoli

Next Week: **Team 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,000.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>325.00</u>
		\$ 1,765.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 771.00



ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, 10th September from 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start.

\$10.00 per person.

BYO drinks and nibbles inc alcohol..

Tickets to be purchased from the school office prior to the night.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

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.

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 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

ST VINCENT de PAUL BREAD RUN

Each Monday we have a team of volunteers who deliver donated bread to 40 families within our Parish. For this service to continue we need at least two additional volunteers. The bread is packed and delivered between 7.30 and 8.30 pm. For further information please contact Geoff Clarkson on 5340 0782.

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a life-time selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into

retirement, and will also need the supported by the fund.

The collection has raised nearly \$1.7 million since it began in 1991, including nearly \$54,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$38,000 each year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Last year this parish raised \$2106.40. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue "caring for those who cared for us". Special envelopes are available for this collection, and will be taken up today and over the coming weeks.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US—THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY.

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.

KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

Is the request that the latest whistle blower from Nauru has asked of us all. So in response, the Ballarat Grandmothers and friends are showing the acclaimed film **CHASING ASYLUM**—the film the Australian Government doesn't want you to see.

Where: Ballarat Central Uniting Church, Peart Wing, 103 Lydiard St Sth

When: Monday, 12th September at 7.30 pm

NO COST

More information: Cath 0437 185 238

Two former employees who have worked on Nauru—Bron McNamee and Gerry Baldock who will be speaking at our September 28th Coffee Catch Up 10.30 am (same venue) have said of CHASING ASYLUM "Chasing Asylum is completely authentic."

We hope you will come and bring a friend or family member who might like to see