

**Reflection on the Gospel-24th Sunday in Ordinary Time C  
(Luke 15:1-32)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Those who take the gospel seriously sometimes forget that joy is a gospel value, a value repeatedly affirmed in the Gospel of Luke. While all three parables in today's gospel reading invite us into the experience of loss, loss of a valued creature, loss of a woman's means of survival, loss of an adult child's respect and presence, they likewise invite us into an encounter with God who seeks and "saves" the lost and who rejoices big time when the lost are found.

The parables are prefaced by an account of the criticism Jesus endured for hosting "the lost" of the human community, namely the toll collectors and those who were categorised as "sinners". The critics in the story are those who consider themselves "righteous". They have no room in their hearts for compassion or forgiveness on the one hand, and no capacity on the other to accept the goodness of a prophet who acts in ways that cut across their expectations.

"What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it?" asks Jesus of his critics, who incidentally would not care to be identified with shepherds whom they despised as unclean. As the story unfolds, the lost sheep is sought and found and ultimately embraced by the community. The celebration that ensues is likened to the heavenly banquet of God's reign where there is more joy over one who repents than over those who have no need of repentance. Repent/repentance may seem a strange choice of words since all the action is taken by the shepherd. The lost sheep simply responds to the initiative of the shepherd who goes after it and returns it to the fold.

"Or what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it?" is Jesus' second question to his critics. The pattern is repeated. The drachma, representing a day's wages, is lost, sought and found, and the community rejoices. Now and then in the biblical tradition, as here, God is imaged as a woman. God is not only the good male shepherd as in the first parable or the good male parent as in the third parable. God is also the diligent female householder who seeks and saves what is lost. No single image can contain the compassionate, loving God presented in these parables. The invitation to the believing community is to find ways of opening our hearts and the hearts of the unforgiving in our world to God's action of seeking and saving the lost-here and now, not simply in the afterlife.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 24th 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, 12th SEPTEMBER 2016**

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY:</b>    | No Mass                        |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b>   | 11.00 am in Mercy Centre       |
| <b>WEDNESDAY:</b> | No Mass                        |
| <b>THURSDAY:</b>  | No Mass                        |
| <b>FRIDAY:</b>    | No Mass                        |
| <b>SATURDAY:</b>  | No Sacrament of Reconciliation |

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES**

|                    |     |          |
|--------------------|-----|----------|
| <b>ST. ALIPIUS</b> | SAT | 6.00 PM  |
|                    | SUN | 9.00 AM  |
| <b>BUNINYONG</b>   | SUN | 10.30 AM |

**25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

|                   |         |                 |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
| <b>READINGS -</b> | First:  | Amos 8:4-7      |
|                   | Second: | 1 Timothy 2:1-8 |
|                   | Gospel: | Luke 16:1-13    |

**RECENT DEATH:** Fr Bob Markey.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Janette Pearse, Molly Dodd, Fred Nihill, Lola Ballinger.

**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, Frank Nolan (Buninyong).

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

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

Next Week: **Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O’Meara, B. Hood, G, Duck.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

|                    |                |                  |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>PARISH:</b>     | Envelopes:     | \$ 1,051.60      |
|                    | Loose money:   | \$ 300.00        |
|                    | Direct debits: | \$ <u>840.00</u> |
|                    |                | \$ 2,191.60      |
| <b>PRESBYTERY:</b> |                | \$ 616.00        |



**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 ASLYUM**—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.

**SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

Wednesday, 14th September in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

**A REMINDER**

From Fr Barry Ryan and Sr Veronica Lawson that the September sessions of the 2016 “Faith Commitment and Ecology Program” are scheduled for Thursday, 15th September (1.00—3.00 pm; 7.00—9.00 pm) at the Mercy Centre. Please enter via Gent Street.

**BEYOND THE YEAR OF MERCY**

A retreat afternoon, which is open to all adults, is to be held at St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall, Ballarat on Sunday, 30th October from 1.30 pm concluding with 5.00 pm Mass. The afternoon will be led by Sr Veronica Lawson, biblical scholar and author of “Blessings of Mercy”. Registrations through the Cathedral Parish Office [ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or phone 5331 2933.

**BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND**

**Collection for Sick and Retired Priests**

Last year our parish contributed \$2,106.40 to this collection, which raised nearly \$54,000 throughout the Diocese. The collection in our parish has raised \$1000 to date. The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. Please ensure that any outstanding envelopes are handed in as soon as possible. If you do not have any special envelopes provided, you may put your contribution in an envelope marked “Ballarat Clergy Support Fund”

There will be a special loose collection this weekend if you would like to contribute and have been unable to do so to date.

**Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.**

**Receipts will be posted to those who give \$10.00 or more, and will be forwarded before the end of the financial year.**

**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US  
THE CHURCH COMMUNITY’S RESPONSIBILITY**

**FREE ECONFERENCE ON MERCY: A WAY OF BEING IN THE WORLD**

This eConference will commemorate the Jubilee Year of Mercy and take up Pope Francis’ invitation to explore this central element of our faith.

Tuesday, 20th September at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat smaller hall with a cuppa from 9.30 am. eConference from 10.30 am – 2.45 pm. BYO lunch.

Please register with Jacinta at the Cathedral Office on 5331 2933 or email [ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au) .

Speakers: Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane and Member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, Scripture Scholar and author of the highly praised book “The Blessing of Mary”, and Mr Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre and President of the Refugee Council of Australia.

**LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM - OCTOBER OR NEXT YEAR**

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. The **October** cycle starts soon so **contact us now**— or you can start next year.

If you are interested, first check our the details on the diocesan website ( link to Pastoral Ministry Program at bottom of front page), then contact Amanda Smith on 5337 7125 or email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au)