

**Reflection on the Gospel-25th Sunday in Ordinary Time C  
(Luke 16:1-13)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

In her insightful and engaging 2005 work, *Dancing with Strangers*, Melbourne-based historian Inga Clenninden offered a new perspective on the famous incident of the spearing of Governor Arthur Phillip at Manly Cove on September 7, 1790. The “accident” at Manly was no accident, she argued, but a carefully staged and brilliantly executed response to the indignities inflicted by the British, albeit unwittingly, on the local inhabitants. The hero at Manly Cove is Baneelon (later known as Bennelong) who secures, for a time at least, the honour and survival of his people. He does so with all the cunning, if not the subterfuge, of the steward in Luke’s parable, and wins an uneasy approval. An ever present motif in the story of these early British-Australian encounters is the understanding of possessions and land peculiar to each.

From eighteenth century Manly Cove back to first-century Palestine is quite a leap. At stake in both arenas are survival and honour. Luke’s unlikely hero is a property manager or steward accountable to a land owner (the master) for the collection of rent from land poor tenants who work the land and pay their rent in produce. The steward is reported for mismanagement. He is called in, asked to produce the books, and told he is about to be sacked. He thinks quickly, approaches the debtors, reduces their sizeable debts by the stroke of a pen, and thus gains their undying loyalty. He then hands over the books. While he has engaged in a series of smart moves, he is far from honest! The master is caught in a cleft stick: his steward has outwitted him and secured his own survival; the master has no honourable redress. He shakes his head and acknowledges the cunning or practical wisdom of the steward.

It must be noted that there is no critique in this parable of the injustices inherent in a system that maintains privilege and subordination. That may be a matter of consideration for disciples in our times. The parable reminds us, rather, that disciples need to have the practical wisdom or cunning of the steward, though to different ends. The parable gives way to a number of sayings about money and its use or misuse. While “money” as a means of exchange has long since been an integral part of life in the Earth community, it can become an obstacle or even a substitute for right relationship with God. The implication in the final saying is that disciples are called to “enslave” themselves to God. Contemporary attitudes to slavery might suggest that we find more appropriate expressions for our relationship with God.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 25th 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, 19th SEPTEMBER 2016**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church (Mercy Day)
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	No Sacrament of Reconciliation

**NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES**

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

**26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

<b>READINGS -</b>	First:	Amos 6:1.4-7
	Second:	1 Timothy 6:11-16
	Gospel:	Luke 16:19-31

**RECENT DEATH:** Bernard Delaney

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Russell Cowan, Michael Dwyer, Mary Roach, Mary Curran, Demetria Patal, Richard Purcell, Fred Harrison, Jack Roach, Michael Carter, Gladys Ashmore.

**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 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

Next Week: **Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.



**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 1,232.50
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>515.00</u>
		\$ 2,047.50
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 669.00

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL  
THANK YOU**

We wish to extend a huge vote of thanks to all who contributed to our recent Winter Appeal.

We received many cash donations and thirty specially purchased double bed woolen blankets. The total amount raised (including the value of the purchased items) was \$6,577.43. We would like to make a special mention of the fantastic efforts of the four school communities within our parish. Their continued support of SVDP is of eminent value to all who seek our assistance.

**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**

A big thank you for your contributions to date which have exceeded \$3,000.00. If you still have outstanding envelopes please hand them in as soon as possible. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible and receipts for amounts in excess of \$10.00 will be forwarded before the end of the financial year.

**ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FAIR  
SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2016**

Please join us on Sunday, 23rd October from 10.00 am in the School grounds, Victoria Street.

There will be something for everyone—Rides, Show Bags, Plants, Books, Entertainment, Art Exhibition, Canteen & Café, Spinning Wheel, Market Stalls and much more.

**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 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)

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS?**

The Cagliari Project, run by the Salesians of Don Bosco, gives Australians an Opportunity to devote 6—12 months in volunteer service to youth in overseas communities. The Salesians are known for their work with vulnerable and disadvantaged youth. Therefore our volunteers are placed in projects such as schools, youth centres and orphanages. Our aim is to walk in solidarity with young people and for volunteers and hosts to have a mutual learning experience. We are also present in host communities to be role models, people that young people can aspire to. The experience as a Cagliari volunteer is not about the volunteer but is focused on the people we go to serve. However, serving as a Cagliari volunteer will probably be the most rewarding thing you will ever do!