

## Reflection on the Gospel-26th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

(Luke 16:19-31) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Social Justice Sunday 2016 invites us to make “a place at the table” for all and, in particular, to consider what that means in an ageing society. The gospel reading calls us to look at the wealth we enjoy as a nation, to sharpen our awareness of the needs of those who seek to share the bounty that we claim for ourselves, and to notice the poor who wait for justice at our gates and who seek a place at the table of life. The exploitative wealthy are a particular target of the Lukan Jesus: “Woe to you who are rich... (Luke 6:24).”

This Sunday’s parable presents a nasty unnamed character who is mega rich and who uses his wealth to support a totally self-centred life-style. He dresses in the finest clothes and feasts extravagantly on a daily basis. He has no concern for or interest in the destitute and badly wounded man, Lazarus, who has been cast at his gate and who longs for a share in whatever falls (‘scraps’ in our translation) from the rich man’s table. The reference here is probably to the pita bread commonly used by diners at banquets to wipe their hands. The bread would be discarded after use and snapped up by the dogs. There is a reasonable chance that, even if the servants fail to offer Lazarus the leftovers, the dogs might share with him their daily fare. Begging for food was often the sole means of sustenance for those with disabilities. Lazarus has a serious disability: he is “sorely wounded”; he is “cast” at the gate and has no capacity to prevent the dogs from licking his sores.

Lazarus dies and is transported by angels into the arms of Israel’s iconic ancestor, Abraham. In contrast, the rich man dies and suffers the torment of Hades. There is no mention of angels to transport him to the place of his ancestors. The rich man’s suffering is exacerbated by the vision of the man whose needs he ignored in life now “a long way off” in Abraham’s embrace. Earlier in Luke’s story, Jesus has declared the bent-over woman to be a daughter of Abraham. Later, he will call the toll-collector Zacchaeus a “son of Abraham”. To be “of Abraham” is to be true to the tradition inaugurated by Israel’s ancestor in faith. It is to “hear” Moses and the prophets and their call to justice and right relationship.

Riches belong, not to the few, but to the whole Earth community. If they are all-consuming, they destroy our capacity to see or hear what really matters. All the honour and status they might bring are quite worthless in the final analysis. The rich man came to this realisation a little too late. We must find a place at our tables for most vulnerable of God’s people.

## BULLETIN FOR THE 26th 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

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### MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 2016

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<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
<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

### 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

<b>READINGS -</b>	First:	Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
	Second:	2 Timothy 1:6-8.13-14
	Gospel:	Luke 17:5-10

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Leo Callinan

**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), Andrew Cartledge.

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

This Week: **Team 8:** B. McKeegan ©, M. Ridsdale, K. McKeegan.  
Next Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.



**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 920.00
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>515.00</u>
		\$ 2,047.50
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 693.00

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**Sunday, 25th September: "A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society".** Information can be found at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au): Latest News.

**SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

Wednesday, 28th September in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street.

**LOOKING FORWARD**

Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar General, and Amanda from the Pastoral Planning Office, will facilitate **Looking Forward Meetings** to discuss the future of this Parish as follows:

Wednesday, 12th October: St Alipius Hall at 7.00 pm  
Thursday, 13th October: St Alipius Hall at 2.00 pm  
Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong at 7.00 pm

**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.

**GRIEF TO GRACE—HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE**

A spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse will be held 26th -31st March, 2017. To request an application contact Anne by emailing [info@griegtograces.org.au](mailto:info@griegtograces.org.au) or phone 0407 704 539. For more information visit: [www.griegtograces.org](http://www.griegtograces.org)

**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.

**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)

**GADRC Ballarat**

The Grandmothers (and friends) Against the Detention of Refugee Children invite you to our September Coffee Catch Up morning, Three ex-workers from Nauru are prepared to share their experiences, images and thoughts with us.

This follows our recent, very successful screening of Chasing Asylum and is a special opportunity to take a broader look at what the effects and detention and settlement on Nauru of recognised refugees is having on adults and also the impact on Nauruan society.

**Wednesday, 28th September from 10.30 am—12.00 noon at the Uniting Church, Peart Wing, 103 Lydiard St Sth, Ballarat.**

For more information please ring Cath on 0437 185 238

**ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, SPRINGBANK**

Will close at the end of the end of the 2016 school year, and on 3rd December we will be celebrating the life and times of the school. Celebrations will commence with an afternoon tea at 4.00 pm, Mass at 6.30 pm, then join us for a spit roast tea, meeting old friends and colleagues and dance the night away. A recovery brunch will be held on Sunday, 4th December (this will be a BYO drinks event). Register your interest to attend one or all of the events by email to [quinlanwater@gmail.com](mailto:quinlanwater@gmail.com) or by message to Margie Quinlan on 0417 587 2354. Please note that you will not be catered for if your name is not on the guest list.