

Reflection on the Gospel-27th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

(Luke 17:5-10) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel seems to be telling us that faith is somehow linked with doing what we ought to do without looking for accolades. The apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. As usual he responds obliquely and with two seemingly unconnected images. As usual, he leaves his hearers puzzled and puzzling.

Given his earlier refusal to engage in demonstrations of power (Luke 4:1-12), Jesus' words about the mulberry tree are strange indeed. Trees simply don't transplant themselves on demand. Would they do so if we believed it possible? I think not. So what is going on here? Jesus often uses hyperbole to make a point. He seems to be asserting the power of faith to "save". When some faith-filled people brought their paralysed friend to him for a cure, or when the centurion appealed to him on behalf of his dying slave, or when the woman massaged his feet with perfumed oil, it was their faith that "saved" them. This time he uses metaphorical language to the same end. In effect he is saying that even the faintest glimmer of faith has the most extraordinary effects. Later in Luke's gospel, Jesus will contrast those who have faith with those who "trust in themselves that they are righteous and regard others with contempt" (18:9).

The slave story provides some interesting, even disturbing insights into the institution of slavery in the world of the first century. Slaves have no expectation of sustenance when they come in from a hard day's work. They attend first to the master's needs, and even then they deserve no recognition or credit. This is simply how it is for slaves. Jesus does not challenge the master-slave relationship whereby the slave receives no special thanks for doing the master's bidding. We may want to critique this aspect of the story. When they have done everything expected of them, the apostles are to consider themselves as "unworthy servants" (literally "worthless slaves"). We might note that "worthless" is a misleading translation of the Greek *achreiai*: slaves are extremely valuable to their owners, even if nobody actually owes them anything.

How can undeserving slaves provide a prototype for gospel leadership? How can this image fit with the supposedly inclusive vision of the gospel as a whole? Our church tradition has always distinguished between those elements in the text that are situation-bound and those that have enduring significance. We need the wisdom to discern the latter and the insight to refuse to re-inscribe oppressive first century societal practices. The story invites us to have faith and to do what we ought to do without looking for undue recognition.

BULLETIN FOR THE 27th 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, 3rd OCTOBER 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	10.30 am Funeral Mass – Sr Agnes Connellan
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

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	2 Kings 5:14-17
	Second:	2 Timothy 2:8-13
	Gospel:	Luke 17:11-19

RECENT DEATHS: Sr Agnes Connellan, Brian Frawley, Frank Forbes.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Armstrong, John Britt, Henk de Jong.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nell McGettigan, Pamela Hayes, Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Barbara Keirl, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter McDonald (Ocean Grove), Gerard Molloy, Peter Clohesy, Kaye Tuddenham, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Andrew Cartledge.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 9:** J. Patton ©, B. Brisbane, J. O'Brien, J. Gibcus.

Next Week: **Team 10:** P. Saunders ©, M. Saunders.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,117.70
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Cards:	\$ 4,999.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,070.00</u>
		\$ 7,486.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 715.00

LOOKING FORWARD

Fr Adrian invites all parishioners to join him at a *Looking Forward* Meeting in October.

There will be three opportunities to meet:

Wednesday, 12th October at 7.00 pm at St Alipius Hall, Ballarat East

Thursday, 13th October at 2.00 pm at St Alipius Hall, Ballarat East

Thursday, 13th October at 7.00 pm at Ss Peter & Paul's Gathering Space, Buninyong.

Each meeting will be facilitated by Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar General and Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant. The meetings are part of the *Looking Forward* diocesan pastoral planning process. Following larger *Looking Forward* gatherings around the diocese in 2014 and 2015, this year *Looking Forward*, in liaison with parish priests, is holding meetings at parishes to focus on local matters.

All parishioners and members of the school communities are most welcome!

For further information, please contact Amanda on 5337 7125.

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 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@griefftoGraceaus.org.au or phone 0407 704 539. For more information visit: www.griefftoGrace.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

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE 2018 INFORMATION NIGHT

When: Wednesday, 26th October 2016

Where: College Chapel, 1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat

Time: Commences at 7.30 pm

All families are invited to attend the 2018 Year 7 Information evening to hear from the Headmaster, Mr John Crowley and Director of Junior School, John Richards on the fantastic educational experiences awaiting your son at St Patrick's College. The evening will be followed by a College Tour as well as Supper and Question time with teaching staff.

Please register for this event at the following link for your attendance:

www.trybooking.com/MZJN

This is a very informative evening and will benefit all families seeking a Catholic education for their son.

Fro further enquiries please contact Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au

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 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.