

Reflection on the Gospel-28th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

(Luke 17:11-19) -Veronica Lawson RSM

Every day we hear news of race riots, ethnic violence and discrimination somewhere in our world, often quite close to us. Even those who do not resort to violence can tend to be suspicious of those who have different origins and different ways from them. The worst atrocities are frequently perpetrated between those who have differing understandings of the same faith. There are elements of this in the present Syrian conflict, even if religion is only one component of this protracted war. We are seeing the end product of a failure to recognize the shared humanity of all people.

Today's gospel story invites us to reflect on the potential goodness of everyone. It continues last week's focus on the saving power of faith. Just four Greek words make up the most telling sentence in the story: "And he was Samaritan!" A new element has entered into the narrative: faith is not the sole preserve of the Jewish people. A despised half-Jew can have faith, faith buried deep within and actively at work like the life in the mustard seed.

Jesus is approached by ten lepers in a village in border territory. All have been excluded from participation in village life on account of their skin disease. All beg for inclusion, expressed in terms of mercy (*eleos*). All follow the prescription of the Law of Moses to show themselves to the priests (Leviticus 13-14). All are declared "clean". Only one turns back, praises God in the market place, falls at Jesus' feet and thanks him. Readers do not know to this point whether the village and its inhabitants are Galilean or Samaritan. They only know that the village is situated in the region between Galilee and Samaria. Now the shocking truth is revealed: one is a Samaritan, doubly marginalised as a "foreigner" or "stranger" and it is this one alone that gives thanks to Jesus and honour to God. This one alone receives the now familiar affirmation: "your faith has saved you". Jesus tells the Samaritan to rise up and continue on his way, on his journey of faith. The other nine are healed, presumably because they too have some limited faith. They have nonetheless forgotten the source of their healing and abandoned the journey to life.

One measure of our faith is our capacity to acknowledge and to celebrate the source of our well-being when life is good and we have no felt need for healing. Another is our capacity to say a simple word of thanks to all those who mediate to us the goodness of a compassionate and merciful God, whatever our circumstances. As this Jubilee Year of Mercy nears its end, we might pause to give thanks for everyone and everything that mediates God's mercy to us and our planet.

BULLETIN FOR THE 28th 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

Telephone: 5332 6611

Fax: 5332 3303

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2016

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
THURSDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
FRIDAY:	9.30 am in Parish Church
SATURDAY:	Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10.00 am

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Exodus 17:8-13
	Second:	2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
	Gospel:	Luke 18:1-8

RECENT DEATHS: Gerard Molloy, Marian Ward (Dunn)

ANNIVERSARIES: Vera Gittings, John Barnett, Lindsay Beck.

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), Peter Clohesy, Kaye Tuddenham, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Andrew Cartledge, Mary Cooper.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: **Team 11:** E. Kennedy © , C. Stewart.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,005.20
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ <u>1,065.00</u>
		\$ 2,370.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 749.00

LOOKING FORWARD

All parishioners of Ballarat East and Buninyong are invited to attend the following *Looking Forward* meetings:

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.

MASS AT POOTILLA CEMETERY

Mass will be celebrated at Pootilla Cemetery (Bungaree) on Sunday, 13th November at 9.30 am. All welcome. Some chairs provided; BYO if possible. For further information please contact 5334 0450

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.

ST ALIPIUS CHILDREN'S LITURGY - TERM 4

St Alipius' Children's Liturgy Program recommences this weekend at our 6.00 pm Vigil Mass. Children's Liturgy take place on about a fortnightly basis during Vigil Masses on Saturdays at 6.00 pm. Dates are available on the notice board in the foyer of the church.

The St Alipius' Children's Liturgy Program caters for kinder and school-aged children and operates throughout school terms. Children preparing for their Sacraments are most welcome to attend. Our Program follows the Liturgical Year. During liturgies, children are invited to participate in prayer, reflect on the Gospel in relation to their lives and share their reflections and participate in creative activities. The Program is run by parent volunteers who lead and/or act as support people for the sessions. Volunteers are provided with resources and supported in their roles. If you are interested in becoming a leader or support person in our Program, please contact Kristen Murray on 5340 0286 or email kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au

POP UP SHOP

Please continue to support organisations such as Vinnies with your donations of socks, toiletries or non-perishable goods.

More information on the Pop Up Shop is on the box near the Piety Stall.

PARISH SECRETARY VACANCY

The Parish of St Columba's Ballarat North is currently recruiting a Parish Secretary for 14 hours per week. Letters of application with enclosed Curriculum Vitae including one professional and one personal referee to be mailed to: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au Further details and a Job Description can be obtained on the parish website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au following the Parish link to Ballarat North. The closing date for applications is close of business Friday, 14th October, 2016.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

You are invited to this Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings of the Holy Year of Mercy to be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, 13th November at 10.30 am