

**Reflection on the Gospel-29th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 18:1-8)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel begins with a reference to prayer, a favourite theme in Luke, and ends with a question about faith. If the parable were about prayer as the narrator suggests, then the unjust judge would image a God who has no respect for anyone and is slow to hear the cry of the poor! There are clearly problems with this, and scholars are divided on how to explain it. The most likely explanation is that, in the editorial process, the gospel writer has made three key additions to the story: the introduction about prayer; the final instruction to pay attention to the judge's words; and the three questions at the end. The original parable probably ended with the words of the judge. What difference might this make for us as 21st century readers? The story almost certainly took on different meanings as it shifted from an oral to a written context. Luke fits the parable rather awkwardly to the issues he wants to address with his communities.

The scene for the verses representing the original parable is "a certain city", possibly suggesting that it is a story for any and every city. There are two main human characters, the judge and the widow. There is another non-speaking character in the wings, namely the widow's opponent. The hearer or reader is invited to fill the gaps. Who is this opponent? What sort of injustice is the widow experiencing? Since the judge clearly recognises the validity of the widow's claim, why does he refuse to hear her plea? Is it because he is accepting bribes from the woman's adversary? What sort of judge would admit to having no respect for anyone, even to himself?

A vital clue to understanding the parable lies in the translation of the final words of the judge. It literally reads: "so that she won't finish up giving me a black eye". Translators have consistently softened the impact of this with a metaphorical reading. Is Jesus drawing attention to the plight of widows in that society who can only get justice from a corrupt judiciary if they resort to violence? The widow in this story is one feisty woman: without the support of a husband or the benefit of social security payments, she has only her own personal resources to rely upon. The judge operates from the assumption that she is prepared to use her fists. A system that provides no other recourse for the vulnerable simply has to change. Jesus tells his hearers to pay attention to what the "unjust judge" has to say. It is not at all clear what the reader is meant to take from this story. One possibility is that even those who seem to have little power can win out in the end.

BULLETIN FOR THE 29th 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, 17th OCTOBER 2016**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
THURSDAY:	No Mass
FRIDAY:	No Mass
SATURDAY:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation.

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14.16-19
	Second:	2 Timothy 4:6-8.16-18
	Gospel:	Luke 18:9-14

RECENT DEATHS: Mary Cooper.

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Power, Robert & Elizabeth Stevenson, Michael Casey, John Curran, James Roach, Matt Purcell, James Flanagan, Sandra Van Kempen, Jack Nolan.

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.

COUNTING TEAMS:

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

Next Week: **Team 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,112.20
	Loose money:	\$ 300.00
	Direct debits:	\$ 515.00
		\$ 1,927.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 652.00



“HOPE”

A commemoration of the sinking of the SIEV X. 400 Asylum Seekers set out on a boat know as SIEV X. Only 7 made it to Australia. One of them was Amal Basry. All welcome on 19th October at 7.00 pm—9.00 pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church.

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.

WALK TOGETHER

Saturday 22nd October at the Indigenous Playground (opp POW memorial), Windmill Drive, Lake Wendouree. Meet 10.30 am; Welcome and walk 12.30—1.30 pm. Share BBQ and refreshments. See Notice Board.

REFUGEE CONCERT—BOUNDLESS PLAINS

Thursday, 3rd November, 7.00 pm at OLHC Church. Fr Andrew Hayes presents a concert of the spoken word. All monies to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Entry \$10.00 and above. Primary children free. Andrew does ask that you let him know you’re coming. Email: frandrewboundlessplains@gmail.com

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER—11th-13th November

Invest in your most precious asset—your marriage. Starts 7.00 pm Friday and ends 5.00 pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals Provided. Information/bookings from Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997. Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website:www.wwme.org.au

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.

DAMASCUS COLLEGE - ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Evening which will include a tour of the College, activities for students and an information session for parents.

Information Evening: Wednesday, 2nd November at 6.30 pm
Please arrive at 6.15 pm for registration

Students of all ages are welcome to attend.

POP UP SHOP

We held at Pop up Shop at Fed Uni, Lydiard Street, last week with students helping as volunteers and providing hot food. Clothes, toiletries, linen, bedding and food were given freely to anyone in need. Showers were also available as was friendship and someone to talk to.

Our next Pop up Shop will be early in December so planning is well under way.

We are looking for donations of linen and bedding. These can be popped under the table. Toiletries...men and women, non-perishable food. The only clothing required is socks and undies. Thank you to all who continue to pop something in the box...there has been something in the box every week.

More information is on the box or on the notice board. Contact Colleen if you would like to become involved—0419 504 029

ST VINCENT DE PAUL—ASSIST A STUDENT PROGRAM

Thank you for your support of the St Vincent de Paul Society and its “Good Works”. We would like to draw your attention to our Assist a Student Program. This Program is supported by the Bishops of Victoria.

Our Bishop, Paul Bird, responded “*I commend the St Vincent de Paul Society on the Assist a Student Program and I commend you on your efforts to inform people about this help offered to students in poorer countries*”.

The AAS Program helps impoverished students in countries to our north to attend school. We all appreciate that **education is the key in helping people break out of the poverty cycle**. It costs \$70.00 to assist one student for one year.

Pamphlets and poster, in the foyer, provides more information. Sponsorship slips are available from the piety stall if you wish to support the Program.