

Reflection on the Gospel-30th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

(Luke 18:9-14) -Veronica Lawson RSM

The parable of the Pharisee and the toll collector follows that of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Luke frames the parable with comments about being just or in right relationship (translated “virtuous”) and justified (translated “at rights with God”). It is addressed to “certain people” who will find a mirror image of themselves in the first of the characters, the Pharisee. Historically, the Pharisees were honorable people, well-versed in Jewish religious traditions and faithful in observing the Law. They made up a very small percentage of the population. In the gospels, they often appear as code for religious leadership that is self-focused, contemptuous of others, and out of touch with the struggle of ordinary people’s lives. In Luke, some of the Jesus’ harshest condemnation is reserved for the Pharisees of the gospel.

The Pharisee goes up to the Jerusalem Temple to pray. There is no surprise in this. That’s what Pharisees do. More surprising is the identification of the other person who also heads for the Temple to pray, a toll collector or tax agent, a man in the pay of the occupying forces, not exactly a person to be trusted and certainly not one connected with proper worship. The Pharisee prays “to himself” or “by himself” or “about himself”: any one of the three translations is possible. He prays with his eyes cast sideways towards his thieving prayer companion. He prides himself on going beyond the prescriptions of the Law. The toll collector, in contrast, stands at a distance, eyes cast down, beating his breast, acknowledging his need for God’s mercy and recognizing God as the source of compassion and forgiveness. For an audience who “have confidence in themselves that they are righteous”, this portrait of the tax agent in right relationship with God is confronting. For such people, being a tax agent is synonymous with being un-righteous.

The language of the toll collector’s prayer, “God be merciful (*hilasthēti*) to me a sinner”, evokes the prayer of a young man of Judah who, almost two centuries before, had seen his brothers die for their faith and who was himself facing death. The young man acknowledged the waywardness of his people, praying that God would be merciful to them and deliver them from persecution (2 Maccabees 7:37). The toll collector of the Lukan parable is more in tune with the faith tradition of his people than is its respected guardian, the Pharisee. Once again, right relationship with God and others is less a matter of who we are or what we do than the spirit in which we do it. There is no room for self-righteousness in God’s way of being in the world.

BULLETIN FOR THE 30th 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, 24th 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	9.00 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	10.30 AM

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Wisdom 11:22—12:2
	Second:	2 Thessalonians 1:11— 2:2
	Gospel:	Luke 19:1-10

RECENT DEATHS: James Kent (Casterton).

ANNIVERSARIES: Joan Auchettl.


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 1:** L. Noonan ©, G. Clarkson, L. Mullane

Next Week: **Team 2:** B. Perkins ©, F. Nolan, J. Lewis.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	965.70
	Loose money:	\$	300.00
	Direct debits:	\$	<u>130.00</u>
		\$	1,395.70
PRESBYTERY:		\$	818.00

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 26th October in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street

ST ALIPIUS PARISH BOOKLET

A booklet about St Alipius Parish and its various communities and activities was published recently. In the coming weeks the booklet will be published on the St Alipius home page on the Diocesan website. If you do not want your image used in the booklet please contact Jim at the Parish Office.

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.

BRING THE REFUGEES HERE

Close the Camps rally 1.00 pm Saturday, 5th November at the State Library, Cnr Swanston & La Trobe Streets, Melbourne. 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

ST ALIPIUS PARISH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FAIR

SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2016

Please join us this 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.

WELCOME

This weekend we welcome Fr Tom Brophy as our celebrant and next weekend we will welcome Fr Bill Melican.

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.

GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST THE DETENTION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN

GADRC Ballarat are honored to have author and refugee advocate Mark Isaacs as their guest speaker. Mark is a former Salvation Army worker on Nauru. In his book "Nauru Burning" he tells the story of the fight of the men in detention to prove their innocence, and of the workers who tried to help them.

Mark will launch "Nauru Burning" at the Ballarat Library at 5.30 pm on Friday, 4th November 2016. We would be honored if you could join us that evening. Enquiries to Cath on 0437 185 238.

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.