



St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sunday 29th October 2016

Reflection: Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

Last week's gospel story featured an unnamed toll collector, someone who found devious ways to make a living, yet faced his shortcomings and came before God in openness and humility.

This week's gospel features Zaccheus of Jericho who, like the toll collector of the parable, is willing to admit his failings and is unafraid to demonstrate his faith in a very public way.

Zaccheus is a chief tax collector, possibly responsible for overseeing the activities of other tax collectors. Whether or not this is the case, he is a wealthy man. Zaccheus is short of stature, we are told, but fairly enterprising in facing the dilemma that this poses. His stature is not an impediment to tree-climbing in a good cause: he wants to see what Jesus is like and he lets nothing get in the way. He runs ahead and climbs the tree. Jesus looks up and tells him to come down quickly, "for I must stay at your house today." The house of a public "sinner" is Jesus' personal choice of accommodation.

There are echoes in this story of Mary's haste to visit her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, and of the joy these women share in Mary's pregnancy. Jesus invites himself to the home of Zaccheus who provides hospitality "joyfully". Hospitality, joy, haste to respond to divine visitation: these are constant themes in Luke.

In any human group there are the critics. This time everyone who sees what is happening has something to say. They complain that Jesus chooses to stay with a sinner. The critics no doubt consider themselves more worthy hosts for God's prophet than Zaccheus. They have little love in their hearts. Their criticism of Zaccheus echoes that of Simon the Pharisee when Jesus allows himself to be touched by a "sinner" woman (Luke 7:36). Like Zaccheus, the woman's sins have already been forgiven. That is why she knows how to love, according to Jesus. There are clues in the narrative that Zaccheus, though labelled as a sinner, has changed his ways. The future tense of our translation ("I will pay") obscures this important element in the story. He gives half his property to the destitute and if he has cheated anyone, he pays them back four times the amount. In other words, he already goes way beyond what is required of a faithful Jew. Jesus looks at Zaccheus and assures him that salvation has come to his house. He then turns to the crowd and acts to restore honour to Zaccheus in the eyes of those who hold him and his kind in contempt. Like the bent-over woman and Lazarus the beggar at the rich man's gate, Zaccheus is a true descendant of Abraham, his ancestor in faith.

Recent Death: Jacob Everett, Ricky Stephens

Anniversaries: Renee Daniels, John Kyatt, Zena Lewashkewicz, Mons Henry Nolan,
Antonio Quagliotto, Gemma Van Gaans

Next week's readings: Sunday 6th November 2016 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 Ps 16:1. 5-6. 8. 15. R. v.15 1 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5 Luke 20:27-38

Catholic Women's League

Meeting will be held at the Presbytery on Wednesday November 2nd commencing at 1.30 pm. Interested women very welcome. Enquiries to Sheila Wilton 5342 9678.

Young Men Interested in Knowing About the Priesthood?

St Patrick's College Ballarat are hosting a pilgrimage for those interested in a vocation to the Priesthood on Saturday 12th November. Bus will leave 10.30 am from St Patrick's College to Scarsdale for a 13km walk to Linton followed by Mass with Fr James Kerr and lunch concluding at 3.00 pm. Please contact Fr Ed Moloney Vocations Director Edward.Moloney@cam.org.au

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Jubilee Year of Mercy and 25 Years of the Family Groups

You are invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving for the blessings of the Holy Year of Mercy to be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, November 13th at 10.30am with morning tea to follow in the Cathedral Hall. This occasion will also be an opportunity to celebrate 25 years since the Family Groups were established in the Cathedral Parish. Marica and Michael Hingston continue to be the coordinators for the Family Groups in the Cathedral Parish and have recently met with those who have expressed interest in joining a Parish Family which is a great way of belonging, getting to know other parishioners & gathering regularly for social events.

Cathedral Parish All Souls Day Mass

7.00 pm Mass in the Cathedral on Wednesday November 2nd followed by supper in the Cathedral Hall. This Mass will be organised by the Funeral Ministry Team who have invited the families of those whose funerals have been celebrated through the Cathedral Parish over the past year. All parishioners are invited to the Mass to pray for our faithful departed – *may they rest in peace.*

The Annual Loreto 'Golden Girls' High Tea Invitation

Alumni of Loreto College Ballarat are invited to High Tea on Wednesday, November 2nd College Tour 2.00 pm, High Tea in the Mary's Mount Centre 3.00 pm. Annual Mass of Remembrance in the Loreto Chapel at 5.00 pm and the AGM of the Past Pupils' Association, including a light supper at 6.00 pm in the Loreto Café. AGM & supper tickets \$15.00.

To register phone the Loreto Development Office, 5329 6137.

Beyond the Year of Mercy – Retreat afternoon with Sr Veronica Lawson RSM

All welcome on Sunday October 30th 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm in the smaller Cathedral hall.

From the Cathedral Parish Environment Group

Draft concept plans for the garden to foster healing and reconciliation are on display in the south transept of the Cathedral. The group is keen to hear from parishioners and receive your feedback. Many thanks to those who have already done so. A suggestion box is available near the display.

Grandmothers (and Friends) Against the Detention of Refugee Children

GADRC Ballarat are honoured to have author and refugee advocate Mark Isaacs as their guest speaker. Mark Isaacs 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 Enquiries: Cath 0437185 238

Visit of Fr James Mallon Author of the Book *Divine Revelation*

Fr James is the author of *Divine Renovation: From A Maintenance To A Missional Parish* and Parish Priest of St Benedict's, Halifax (Nova Scotia, Canada). Over several years, a discipleship process has emerged at St Benedict's which has been producing remarkable results. This strategy is a dynamic discipleship pathway which parishes can develop. Fr James' engaging and accessible style challenges us to rethink our models of parish life, in order to become more vibrant and dynamic communities of missionary disciples who proclaim and share the Good News with others. Many Cathedral parishioners who have participated in the Alpha program will be attending – they invite others to join them as they travel to Box Hill on Wednesday November 16th, departing 5.00 pm. Contact the Cathedral Office to register your interest.

Refugee Concert – Boundless Plains

Fr Andrew Hayes presents a concert of the spoken word. All monies to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Entry \$10 and above. Primary children free. Andrew does ask that you let him know you're coming. Email: frandrewboundlessplains@gmail.com

Wendouree	7.00 pm	Thursday November 3 rd	OLHC Church Wendouree
Ararat	4.30 pm	Sunday November 6 th	St Mary's Church Ararat

Nazareth House Auxiliary Fete

Fete will be held on Saturday, November 19th from 10.00am at Nazareth House, Mill Street, Ballarat. Stalls, photo booth, BBQ, spinning wheel, Devonshire tea, face painting. All welcome.

St V de Paul Wendouree Conference Thanksgiving Mass, Thursday November 3rd 10am at OLHC.

RCIA Journey Continues

As our Parish Community journeys with our Catechumens and Candidates we ask for your prayerful support for these wonderful people. Following is one suggested prayer you may like to pray for them.

God of all ages, you send your Spirit to touch the hearts of people so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom you sent. Look kindly on all catechumens and candidates, as they listen to your voice.

Open their hearts to your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work you have begun in them.

As our Parish Community reaches out to welcome new members into the church, make us an instrument of your love. Teach us to reverence what is holy in others, and be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel, and help us to pass it on by good example.

With those who are hesitant or afraid, let us be a source of encouragement. With those who are weak let us be a pillar of strength. We pray that you will continue to guide our Parish and sustain us in welcoming new members into your household. We praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen

Counters 6th November Team 5 Next week Team 6

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05 pm Cathedral		
Tuesday	No Mass Redan	12.05 pm Cathedral	5.30 pm Loreto Sisters
Wednesday	No Mass Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral	7.00 pm Cathedral
Thursday	9.30am Redan	11.30 am St John of God	12.05pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30am Sebastopol	12.05 pm Cathedral	1.30pm Benediction
Saturday	10.00am Cathedral		

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.00 am, Saturday 11.30 am

Morning Prayer of the Church 8.00 am Tuesday – Friday in the Cathedral

Cathedral Parish Masses	November 5 th /6 th	Smythesdale	Linton	Skipton
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm		6.30 pm Vigil	9.00am	10.30 am

Parish Office hours Monday - Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Phone 5331 2933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Clergy Frs Justin Driscoll, James Kerr, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew

Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook,

Family Ministry Anita Houlihan,

Ballarat Health Services Tracy Sillekens

Principals of our three Parish Schools

[St Patrick's Primary](#) Mark Hogbin, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) at Lucas Jo Brewer