

**Reflection on the Gospel-32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 20:27-38)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Is there life after death? If so, what does that mean? Will we be united in death with those whom we have loved in this life? Do the bonds of love experienced in this life continue beyond the grave? Are our loved ones far from us in death? How do they live on, if indeed they do? These are questions that have preoccupied human beings for millennia. Our Christian faith tradition, grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, offers no clear answer to any of these questions. It simply offers a call to faith in life after death and in God as “not of the dead, but of the living.”

As the liturgical year draws to a close, the readings invite us to ponder this mystery of the bonds of love that persist, in unimagined and unimaginable ways, even after death. Some Sadducees “who say there is no resurrection” put a loaded question or case study to Jesus in an attempt to expose as nonsensical the Pharisaic belief in resurrection. In the process, they try to discredit Jesus as a teacher of the Law. As usual, Jesus refuses to be entrapped. The diversity of Jewish opinion and belief reflected in this passage may come as a surprise to those who think of Judaism at the time of Jesus as a religion with a unified theological system. There was certainly agreement among the parties or sects on four key aspects of Jewish faith, namely, monotheism (belief in one God); election (Israel as God’s chosen people); Torah (the call to be faithful to the Law of Moses as found in the first five books of the Bible); and Temple (the Jerusalem Temple as the meeting place between God and God’s people). At the same time, there was room for considerable diversity. Life after death and the resurrection of the dead were among the many contested beliefs.

Recently, as I sat with a dying Mercy friend who maintained a twinkle in her eye despite her declining health, I pondered the mysteries of life and death. I knew in my heart that the life she generated and the love she knew and brought to others over almost eight decades somehow continues and is transformed beyond our imagination through the grace of the God of the living. For the moment, that is sufficient response to the reading for this Sunday. Jesus of Nazareth refuses entrapment and invites belief in a God for whom all the dead are alive. We live by faith in that God, and in hope of the resurrection.

BULLETIN FOR THE 32nd 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, 7th NOVEMBER 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:	No Sacrament of Reconciliation.

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES

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

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

READINGS -	First:	Malachi 3:19-20
	Second:	2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
	Gospel:	Luke 21:28

RECENT DEATHS: Sr Rita Hayes, John (Jack) Gannon.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin O’Keefe, Mons. Henry 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 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell, F. Colasante.

Next Week: **Team 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.



COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$	897.20
	Loose money:	\$	300.00
	Direct debits:	\$	340.00
		\$	1,537.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$	665.00

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 9th November in the Mercy Centre at 2.00 pm. Please enter via Gent Street. All welcome.

REMEMBRANCE MASS

It is a practice of the Catholic Church to pray for the dead during the month of November. In the spirit of this occasion, we at St Alipius Parish have developed our own custom of celebrating a Mass for parishioners who have died in the past year. This year this Mass is to be on **Saturday, 12th November at 6.00 pm.** Following the Mass a "cuppa" will be provided in the hall.

"GOSPEL IN THE GARDEN"

Sunday, 20th November at 2.00 pm. Funds raised will assist local asylum seekers and their families. Fun, music singing and entertainment for all. Entrance \$20.00. Children free. Enquiries to Carmel 0401 175 045 or email annekav123@yahoo.co.uk. More information to follow.

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.

PARISH RECORDS

If you are new to the Parish and/or have not provided details you are invited to complete a Census Card and return to the Parish Office. The cards are located in the church foyer.

WHAT IS MY STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR PARISH?

- **To be an active member of our faith community**
celebrating weekly Mass and the Sacraments
- **To be involved in service**
we grow both as individuals and as a faith community
- **To make my financial commitment to the Stewardship Program**
enables us to always provide the services that make us a special community of faith

Stewardship—a way of living in St Alipius' Parish

"Once one chooses to become a Disciple of Jesus Christ
Stewardship is not an option"

The late Bishop Thomas Murphy USA

COORDINATOR REQUIRED FOR ST ALIPIUS CHILDRENS' LITURGY PROGRAM—2017

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of voluntary coordinator of St Alipius Parish Children's Liturgy Program for 2017. The program is run by parent volunteers who lead and/or act as support people for the sessions. Children's Liturgy presently takes place on about a fortnightly basis during Vigil Masses on Saturday at 6.00 pm.

St Alipius Parish Children's Liturgy Program caters for kinder and school aged children and operates during school terms. Children preparing for their sacraments are most welcome to attend. The 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. New volunteers will be provided with support including resources and guidelines, prior to the beginning of next year's program. Parents and friends interested in volunteering for the program as a coordinator, leader or support person, can contact Kristen Murray on 5340 0286 or email kristenmurray1@optusnet.com.au

VISITATION TO THE HOMES

As there is a need for visitation to the homebound with Holy Communion, anyone who is prepared to undertake this important ministry is asked to contact Jim at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.