

Reflection on the Gospel-12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 10:26-33) - Veronica Lawson RSM

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia's detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Ha-keema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some of the first century Christian groups, including Matthew's community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis à vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as did Jesus and his followers. The scene at Gethsemane suggests that Jesus himself experienced deep fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najif: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God and the witness of his courage would remain, in stark contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering. The disciples are sent out on mission. They are to proclaim in the marketplace or from the "housetops" the gospel they have received in the security of the household. They can expect rejection and humiliation. They are not to be deterred from their mission. Above all, they are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all God's creatures, they are precious in God's eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, Jesus will "acknowledge" them before God "in heaven". Trust in the author and sustainer of life is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God's empire. Trust in God does not take away the pain. Rather, it puts the inevitable suffering of the disciple on mission into the broader perspective of life in its fullest expression.

BULLETIN FOR THE 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST ALIPIUS PARISH, BALLARAT EAST

Including St Peter & Paul's, Buninyong

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MASS TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 26th JUNE 2017

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES

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

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

READINGS	First:	2 Kings 4:8-11.14-16
	Second:	Romans 6:3-4.8-11
	Gospel:	Matthew 10: 37-42

RECENT DEATHS: Shirley and John Ryan

ANNIVERSARIES: Danny Roche, Tom Ballinger, Jane Auchettl, Frank Dodd, Jack Dodd, Pat White.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Nathan Cambell, Denise Learmonth, Cath Wheelahan, Mick Kent, Terry McGarry, Kevin Walsh, Peter Clohesy, Frank Nolan (Buninyong), Mary Barnett, Fiona Dickinson, Carmel Doherty, Pauline Murphy, Luke Taylor.

COUNTING TEAMS:

This Week: **Team 3:** M. O'Donnell ©, L. O'Donnell.

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,352.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Credit Cards	\$ 3,692.00
	Direct Debits	\$ 410.00
		\$ 5,754.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 710.00



THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA is a process where people who are interested in becoming Catholic come together with members of the RCIA team to discuss their personal experiences which have drawn them to question and discover more about the Catholic faith. Those who choose to explore and seek full initiation into the Catholic Church continue through the process of *Enquiry* to the *Catechumenate* and then onto full membership into the Catholic Church. An invitation is extended to anyone interested in exploring the Catholic faith. Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Peter on 5332 6611.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL

We invite you to be part of our “TOGETHER WE CAN DO HEROIC THINGS” appeal. We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish as it enables us to continue our support for those in need. Envelopes are available at the St Alipius Piety Stall and at Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong. Please hand your envelopes in at collection time, or post to the Box Hill address if paying by credit card. All donations are used in the Ballarat area. Donations of over \$2.00 are tax deductible, and receipts will be issued. There has been a very encouraging response to date.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS: POPE FRANCIS SURVEY NOW OPEN

Please encourage young adults you know to do this survey (Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone whether they are actively connected to church or not). This online survey is seeking opinions and perspectives of young people (16-29) as part of national consultation process that will inform the world wide Synod on Youth that Pope Francis is convening in October 2018. The survey closes on **2 July 2017**. Access the survey on www.ballarat.catholic.org.au For more information: youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5337 7125

SOCIAL AFTERNOON

Wednesday, 25th June at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Enter via Gent Street

SPECIAL MINISTERS

There will be a gathering of existing and new Special Ministers on Tuesday, 25th July at either 2.00 pm or 7.00 pm in St Alipius Hall. As many as possible are invited to accept the invitation to participate in this ministry for Masses at St Alipius and a Ss Peter & Paul, Buninyong. Please see sheets on the notice board for you to indicate your interest or to nominate someone. Being nominated or putting forward a name does not commit you to being a Special Minister, initially just to learn and be informed. Those nominated can decide after this. Alternatively, you may leave your name with the Parish office on 5332 6611.

AN INVITATION

To the parishioners of Ss Peter & Paul's, Buninyong to join with the Buninyong Sub-Branch of the RSL on **Saturday, 1st July** in the historic community march and ceremonies associated with the rededication of the Buninyong World War 1 Avenue of Honour. Assemble at the Buninyong Golf Club at 9.00 am for a march off at 9.30

LITURGY FORMATION 2017

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will be offering a Liturgy Formation Session at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, 9th July. It will commence at 12.00 noon following Mass celebrated by Bishop Bird at 10.30 am. Workshops on offer are **Funeral Ministry, the Diocesan Initiation Program, “Let the Children Come” and Formation for Lectors**. See information and a registration form on the Notice Board. Additional forms are available from the Parish Office. Registration is also available via the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

COUNTING TEAMS

An invitation is extended to parishioners to join or form a Parish Counting Team. There are currently 11 teams which count the Stewardship collections from our weekend Masses. The commitment is for an hour or two on a Sunday or Monday, depending on your availability. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday).

TIME TO DRAW THE LINE – EAST TIMOR

Many of you have a close relationship with East Timor communities. Here is a way to ACT for JUSTICE in support of these communities. Sr Susan Connelly rsj has initiated a formal Petition to the Australian House of Representatives on the maritime border with East Timor. A formal petition means it will be read in parliament. See Notice Board.