

Reflection on the Gospel-13th Sunday on Ordinary Time A

(Matthew 10:37-42) - Veronica Lawson RSM

Until last week I had never heard of Dr Douglas Owsley, forensic scientist, physical anthropologist and former curator of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. His story, as told by Jeff Benedict in *No Bone Unturned* (2003), is one of utter dedication and commitment to truth. Having opened that book, I simply could not put it down. Doug loved his wife and children enough to ask them to bear with him as he risked his career and his reputation by engaging in a legal battle with the federal government of the USA, a six-year battle that finally paid off. Doug was not alone in his struggle for justice. He had the support of close colleagues and of a legal team who likewise sacrificed everything, including time with family members at significant moments, in order to expose and reverse attempts to contort scientific research for political gain. Doug Owsley's victory was a victory for the American people and for the anthropological record. It was a win for the integrity of independent scientific research. The stakes were high in this case. In the end Doug knew that he had done what was right and that was what mattered.

Today's gospel reading brings to a close the so-called missionary discourse in which Jesus instructs his disciples on what it actually means to be a disciple. While some of the nuances of those instructions are lost in translation, his words to the disciples can still speak to us as contemporary disciples. In following the way of Jesus and living the gospel of truth and justice and compassion, we can be faced with excruciating choices, as was Doug Owsley in his situation. We cannot always satisfy family if we want to be true to what we believe or if we want to expose injustice and dishonesty: there is often a deeper commitment that transcends the bonds of family relationship. We may even be called to relinquish, for the sake of a greater good, a career that we love or income on which we depend. In other words, there is deep suffering in the way of discipleship, suffering that comes from being true to the mission no matter the cost.

Taking up the cross is a powerful metaphor for being willing to endure whatever hardships are involved in realising the vision of God's empire. Words are not enough: we are to live out in our lives the pattern of Jesus' life, a life characterised by hospitality or welcome and attention to the vulnerable. A cup of cold water for "the little ones" becomes the emblem of discipleship and in our post-industrial times the little ones include all God's thirsty creatures, human and other-than-human.

BULLETIN FOR THE 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, 3rd JULY 2017

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	No Mass
WEDNESDAY:	No Mass
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	10.30 AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

READINGS	First:	Zechariah 9:9-10
	Second:	Romans 8:9.11-13
	Gospel:	Matthew 11:25-30

RECENT DEATHS: Gwen McDermott, Phil Collins

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 4:** C. Tarquino ©, M. Tarquino.

Next Week: **Team 5:**J.Moran ©, B. Forbes, C. Napoli.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,342.00
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits:	\$ <u>480.00</u>
		\$ 2,122.00
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 765.00



CARING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 7th July at 10.00 am in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

GREETINGS

Journey is going well with 650 kms completed and into the last week. Camino challenging and teaching me about the ways of life. We are in Lugo with rest day tomorrow. A huge festival celebrating their Roman heritage. City founded by Romans in 12 BC. Muchas gracias, love Peter.

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. The response continues to be encouraging. Thank you.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE POPE

Will be taken up next weekend to support the Pope’s pastoral care for people around the world. Bishop Paul Bird commends this appeal to us.

NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILARY

The AGM will be held on Wednesday, 5th July, following Mass in the chapel at 1.00 pm. New members welcome.

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 Ss Peter & Paul, Buninyong. Please see sheets on the notice boards in the church foyer and the Piety Stall 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.

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 responsible for counting 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) if you are interested.

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.