

**Reflection on the Gospel-14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
(Matthew 11:25-30)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Some people have little appreciation of the depth of their own wisdom. Others seem to think they have the monopoly on wisdom. Jesus contrasts the latter, those who consider themselves wise and intelligent, with the truly wise ones, the “little ones” to whom the secrets of God’s empire have been revealed. The first part of today’s gospel is his prayer of gratitude for God’s choice of the “little ones”. God’s ways turn human expectations upside down.

The final verses of today’s gospel are among the best known and best loved in all of the gospel tradition. “Come to me...and I will give you rest” is a lovely invitation. It is issued to those who are weary and burdened, and that includes most of us at some or another. The “rest” that Jesus offers is God’s rest. It is not just relief from drudgery and hard work. In the biblical tradition, rest is *shabbat*. It is freedom from any sort of enslavement, freedom to remember God’s goodness in creation. Rest time or *shabbat* is about making a space to contemplate the wonder of the galaxies, the wonder of life in all its forms and all its potentialities. God’s rest restores life to our wearied spirits. It frees us to open ourselves to ever new possibilities and to be there for others. For me, spending a little time each day with a poem or a beautiful painting, even a postcard, has become an experience of entering into God’s rest.

“Take my yoke upon you...” is Jesus’ further invitation. Later in this gospel, the same verb will be used when Jesus tells his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” The “yoke” of Jesus, the cross that he will take up, and the cross that his disciples are invited to bear are all of a piece. A yoke is a cross-beam or cross-bar. Jesus will carry his cross-beam to execution. Disciples, in their turn, will carry their cross-beams, figuratively if not literally. They will not be weighed down or burdened by this prospect for the “yoke” of which Jesus speaks is easy and the burden is light. How can this be? The answer lies in the final invitation: “Learn of me, for I am gentle and humble of heart....” In Matthew’s beatitudes, the gentle are those who inherit the earth. There is nothing weak about the gentle (“meek” is not a helpful translation). The non-violent methods of the gentle are infinitely more effective in restoring creation than the violence of so many who present themselves as “wise and intelligent”. God’s “rest” is the source of their power-and of ours.

**BULLETIN FOR THE 14th 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, 10th JULY 2017**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	No Mass
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	11.00 am in Mercy Centre
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	9.30 am in Parish Church

**NEXT WEEKEND’S MASSES**

<b>ST. ALIPIUS</b>	SAT	6.00 PM
	SUN	9.00 AM
<b>BUNINYONG</b>	SUN	10.30 AM

**15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>READINGS</b>	First:	Isaiah 55:10-11
	Second:	Romans 8:18-23
	Gospel:	Matthew 13:1-23

**RECENT DEATHS:** Virginia Tatarczuk, Betty Murphy, Mick Kent, Clem Lyndon.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Jim Tung, Margaret Hanrahan, Edward Duck

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

**COUNTING TEAMS:**

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

This Week: Team 6: M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:**

<b>PARISH:</b>	Envelopes:	\$ 2,546.60
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits	\$ 345.00
		\$ 3,191.60
<b>PRESBYTERY:</b>		\$ 722.00



**SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

Wednesday, 12th July at 2.00 pm in the Mercy Centre. Please enter via gent Street.

**NAZARETH HOUSE AUXILIARY**

A coffee party will be held on Friday, 25th July at 1.30 pm. Spinning wheel, devonshire tea, entrance prize, fancy goods and produce stalls

**AN INVITATION**

Is extended to parishioners to consider joining the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Team which performs a valuable and significant ministry in the Parish.

The RCIA Team accompanies those who are interested in exploring the Catholic faith and seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church.

For further information please contact the Parish Office or Fr Peter on 5332 6611, or John Clonan on 0478 770 598.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

St Alipius envelopes/statements are available for collection this weekend near the Piety Stall.

**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 St Alipius church foyer or near the Piety Stall and at Ss Peter & Paul’s 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.

**ST ALIPIUS LITURGY ROSTERS**

Are available for collection near the choir loft door this weekend.

**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

**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION. CLOSE THE CAMPS. BRING THEM HERE**

Please join us for an hours vigil to remember the 4th anniversary of the decision that people arriving by boat to seek asylum in Australia would be detained on Manus Island and Nauru and never allowed to settle here.

The Manus Island and Nauru Centres have been condemned by the UNHCR, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Australian Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International and many other human rights organisations.

**When:** Wednesday, 19th July

**Where:** Queen Victoria Square (opposite the Ballarat Town Hall)

**Time:** 5.00—6.00 pm

Bring a candle.

The Australian Refugee Action Network including Rural Australians for Refugees and the Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children.