

**Reflection on the Gospel- 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

One of the privileges of my life has been an ongoing involvement in Catholic education, especially in religious and theological education of staff. While my connection now is somewhat removed from the day to day life of schools, I am keenly aware of the selfless dedication of leadership and staff in their efforts to create environments for the children and young adults in our communities to receive God's word in its multi-layered reality. A sense of wonder and appreciation of the goodness of creation, of respect for the human and the more -than-human Earth community, is at the heart of any truly worthwhile education. The experience of violence or broken trust in the lives of some children may inhibit that sense of wonder and respect. Sensitive educators, at home and at school, are attuned to the diversity of experience among children and are called to attend to the inevitable diversity of needs so that all might be open to learn and to grow in wisdom and grace.

Jesus' parable of the soil, seed and sower reminds us that the grace of God's word is there for everyone who is open to receive it. If the seed takes root in rich soil, the harvest is assured. If it misses the mark and falls on the path, the benefit is for the birds alone and not for the human community. If the soil is rocky, the growth is premature and short-lived and the harvest is very limited, so that the birds are deprived along with the human community. If the seed falls among thorns, it is choked-so once again, there is no harvest. The readiness of the soil is all important, though the extent of the yield is the measure of God's abundant grace.

This parable reflects Jesus' closeness to the whole Earth community and his familiarity with the lives of ordinary people. While scattering of seed before ploughing seems a rather wasteful method of sowing a crop, such a practice is attested in the ancient world. Is the sower an extraordinarily generous God or an exploitative and wasteful estate owner? Parables tease their hearers and invite them to ponder their many levels of meaning. We have to bring our own life experience into dialogue with the word of each parable and search out its meaning for us. When we consider our children, the parable of the soil, seed and sower may yield its wisdom more slowly than parents and teachers may wish. Young people tend to mature at different rates and their faith develops in myriad ways that only God as harvester truly comprehends. We do whatever we can and trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest.

BULLETIN FOR THE 15th 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, 17th JULY 2017**

MONDAY:	No Mass
TUESDAY:	5.00 pm in Mercy Centre
WEDNESDAY:	10.30 am Funeral 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	10.30AM
BUNINYONG	SUN	9.00 AM

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

READINGS	First:	Wisdom 12:13.16-19
	Second:	Romans 8:26-27
	Gospel:	Matthew 13:24-43

RECENT DEATH: Annette Cameron

ANNIVERSARIES: Jason Luke Duck. S.A.C, Nancy Flanagan, Molly Flanagan, Mary Carter, Basil Roach, Patrick Roach, Joseph Roach.


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 6:** M. Stewart ©, M. Anderson, R. Reynolds.

This Week: **Team 7:** K. Cummins ©, J. O'Meara, B. Hood, G. Duck.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:



PARISH:	Envelopes:	\$ 1,690.20
	Loose:	\$ 300.00
	Direct Debits	\$ <u>975.00</u>
		\$ 2,965.20
PRESBYTERY:		\$ 645.00

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Is available for collection this weekend

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.

"GALAH"

From the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2017. Written and directed by local playwright, John Bolger. Minerva Space, Mechanics Institute, 117 Strut Street, on Saturday, 5th August. All proceeds to assist asylum seekers and refugees in Ballarat. See notice board.

LOST

Lost in the church after Mick Kent's funeral on 7th of July, a green plastic bag, Containing two mementos of Mick's life:

1. A handmade wood based Morse code key.
2. A brass beret badge of the 2nd AFL signals Crop

These articles were left in a plastic bag in the basket at the right hand of the entrance door. If anyone has seen them please contact Stephaine Kent on 5333 1869

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. The response to date has been very encouraging.

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. We need more to spread the load. Please contact Jim at the Parish Office (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday) if you are interested.

TIME TO DRAW THE LINE

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 Connely 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.